Dear Sister:

I arrived at this my destination yesterday at eleven o'clock A.M., and was I can assure you very glad to get here, for I had become heartily sick of travel. I will begin now and give you a short account of my doings since I landed in Japan, for of the voyage from San Francisco to Yokohama I can only say what I have already written to Martha. I enjoyed myself very much while I was in Tokyo and Yokohama. Everything was new and interesting. The Japanese houses are nearly all of them very small and low. Most of them, in these two cities are covered with a very curiously shaped style of roof which gives the roofs a very pretty, picturesque appearance. These houses usually contain only one or two rooms which are quite small. If there is more than one room, one is separated from the other by paper partitions, and all the doors and windows are of paper. The frame of the house is always very light, and is frequently fastened together by strings. The whole front of the house can be taken down and always is down in the day time, so that a passer by may see the entire house keeping arrangements at a glance. These are very simple; the entire furniture is comprised in these few articles, a few mats to sit and sleep on, a few wooden boxes to eat from, a kettle to use for cooking purposes, a box lined with metal in which a few charcoal are kept for warmth and cooking purposes and chopsticks. Besides these every man, woman and child has a pipe, for all are incessant smokers. A part of every floor, in all the better houses, is covered with straw матting which is kept very clean and nice. On this no one ever steps with shoes on with which they walk out of doors; but some wear inside a sort of slipper. This description is of a regular Japanese house; but now a very few have foreign houses; the number however is very very small. The people all seem to be happy and contented, though they live in circumstances in which we should be very miserable. Flying kites seems to be the national amusement, and all, both old and young engage in it. In passing through a village you may count scores of them in the air, all in view at the same time. I have seen a youngster, apparently about six years of age, with a large baby on him back, who in spite of this load was engaged in the national sport, while the baby watched the kite with apparently as keen an interest as he. The clothing of the natives is very various both as to color, quality, style and quantity. Most frequently, even up here, they are bareheaded, and barefooted often. They seem to have no idea of what we should call comfort, and in this part of the empire build their houses without chimneys, their only fire being one of charcoal in a small open box. But I have not time to write more of the Japanese, if I write anything of myself, and no will say nothing more at this time. I was just on the point of going to
A dinner party given in my honor by the Zaikatsuki when I wrote
Marta. Well I went and had a much better time than I anticipated.
There were twelve Japanese dignitaries present only two of which
could speak a work of English. The dinner itself was very elabor-
ately gotten up, and the table was tastefully decorated with Ja-
ppanese artificial flowers. I enclose the bill of fare, which as
you will see is printed in French and Japanese. Wine were plenty
and all except myself drunk. The next day Thursday the 15th inst.
I spent in looking round, and in buying a few articles which I
needed, and that evening went on board the Hakodate Maru, which
sailed the next morning for Hakodate. All the passengers and crew
on this steamer were Japanese, and I had amusing times in trying
to make them understand what I wanted, as some of them knew a little
English; and I tried to make them understand in their language.
For instance I wished some crackers, and the waiter brought me about
everything else in the line of food and much that was not food with-
out getting the right article. Then I would get out my dictionary
while they looked on with open mouthed astonishment and then gave
them the Japanese name which for crackers is local pan. We had a very
pleasant passage of about three and a half days to Hakodate, with
the exception of the last night which was very rough. Most of the
way we were in night of the land and the shores were very picturesque.
We reached H. on Monday at about noon. I immediately went on shore,
and after seeing the Zaikatsuki officials was taken to a Russian
Hotel and lodged. Here I stayed till Wednesday morning, spending
my time in seeing the place. Then we sailed for Otarumi; but after
getting some way up the stream, it was so rough that the steamer was
burned round, and we returned to Hakodate having spent the entire
day on a very rough sea. I again went to the Hotel, & the next day
went about ten miles into the country to a place called Huyame with
Mr. Yohi, who was formerly in Anchast, and who had come to Hakodate
to take me out there. Here the Zaikatsuki have a very fine farm of
which he has the management. I passed a very pleasant day, and re-
turning to H. I remained there till about ten o'clock in the evening,
when I again went on board the Hakodate Maru. We sailed once more
the next morning at three o'clock, when the weather was quite fine;
but the wind continued to increase all day, and in the evening it
blew a perfect gale. The waves rolled mountains high and the steam-
er pitched about fearfully, great waves constantly sweeping over
her and engendering against her sides. I could not sleep a particle
all night. One sailor fell overboard and was lost, and the boat
sustained some injury; but we weathered it and the next day, Sat-
turday the 26th inst., we reached Otarumi a port about twenty-five
miles distant from this place. Here I was met by an official from
here, who at once took me in charge and saved me all further trouble
in regard to baggage or any thing else. He took me ashore in a nice
boat and we went to a Japanese Hotel. Here I, from choice for I had
my knife and fork with me, made my first attempt to eat with chop
sticks. My guide Mr. Take at once telegraphed my arrival to
Sapporo, and for a cock to come to that place about ten miles distant
where we intended to spend the night. After a short rest we set out
on horse back, and rose to Jumibaka where we put up for the night. Here I slept in Japanese style on quilts and covered by quilts. It was very comfortable, except that I very much missed pillows, which they never have. The next morning at eight o'clock we started again on our way and were met when about five miles from here by Pres. Clarke, Profs., Penhallom and Wheeler and Mr. Saito. We made a merry party the rest of the way, and at eleven o'clock we dismounted before the doors of the Professor's residence in Nagare. I found two nice large rooms all furnished and warmed which were designed for my use. Here I soon settled down, and at last felt at home once more. I live in the family with the three gentlemen who were here before me, and am very pleasantly situated. I have met and been introduced to all the boys in the college, and like their appearance very much. At no more at this time, for it is late. Give lots of love to all the home folks, and tell them all to write often and long letters. Remember me to all enquiring friends.

Yours with much love

Wm. F. Brooks.

I never have patience to read this over so if there are any mistakes please excuse.

I find said bill of fare printed on such stiff card that I cannot send in a letter without destroying it, so I leave it out.

W.F.B.