San Francisco, Aug. 11th, 1870.

Dear Sister;

More than a month has passed since I have received letters or news from home, the last one dated about the first of June. This happens because there was a long delay at San Francisco, one steamer having been shipped the mail was due on the 7th of August, so I hope to get a double allowance from her. We are having perfectly delightful weather here now, but not unbearable. Yesterday I with five students made the ascent of Mt. Tamal, the highest mountain in this vicinity about three thousand feet high.

The ascent is very difficult, although not excessively steep, the distance being over twelve miles. The greater part of the way there is no path and a very dense undergrowth of bamboo. It took us five hours and a half to reach the summit, and five hours to come down. We really ascended about four thousand feet in going up and returning, as we were obliged to go down a perpendicular peak which I judge to be about five hundred feet above the mountain into which we de-
Please excuse these marks.

They are specimens of the German handwriting of a meddlesome boy who came in to see me and made me write while I was doing something else.

Within the past two weeks I have had the pleasure of entertaining two professors from Tokyo, one an American, Prof. Morse, and the other an Englishman, Mr. Fenton. Prof. Morse stayed only about a day and a half. I found him very sociable and pleasant. He is busy collecting shells of all kinds and has dredged in the harbors of Okawa and Kaoka. Mr. Fenton is collecting insects and is very much interested in his work. He is very quiet but pleasant. He was with me five days. Prof. Morse once more at home, but probably in less than two weeks Prof. Wheeler and the other missioner will arrive as soon as possible.

The chief of the Katoakiishi Sen, Ituroda has now reached Kaoka and the
may here. She has not been here before since my arrival. I am glad to have living some for there are several matters which I wish to consult him personally. Almost all my farm crops are looking splendidly. Tomatoes and cabbage have been very badly damaged by insects, and one field of the former is not a very fine one.

I have recently made a proposition that we have an agricultural Fair here this fall, and the Chief officer here was very much pleased at the idea; so we shall have one. I am now considering the matters for what, it is best to offer prizes, plan of organization, etc. I shall make it as much like a New England cattle-show as possible, omitting the "horse kids." I haven’t any news to write about and as I have no unanswered letters from you to furnish topics upon which I can enlarge and expatiate I must close.

Yours as ever
With love understanding
Brother Hall.