

[1905 title page]

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[p. 72]

MISS ISABELLE MAE WARD wrote from SAPPORO :

We have been busy with preparations for a musical given by the school-girls for the benefit of soldiers at the front. We feel the war more, since so many of our Hokkaido men have been killed. Some of us foreigners went out to the barracks near Sapporo, to sing at a farewell meeting given the soldiers before their departure for Port Arthur. The singing was in a large drill hall, into which only half the men could pack themselves at one time, so we stayed from three till about nine, and sang to them in divisions. Two days ago, we heard that out of 3,000 who heard us then, 2,500 were killed by the

MINES BEFORE PORT ARTHUR.

As relatives of our girls and some of our friends were among the slain, and the sorrows of war become visible, the horror is more real.

Our school is prospering finely. Some things we could wish to see improved or used to better advantage, but the Lord is blessing His work here. It is a joy to see the girls grow. Some who came to us only two terms ago are now quite decided for Christ. I have become well acquainted with the new surroundings and people and am enjoying Sapporo very much. It seems nice to work in a full school. I find the desire to speak fluently grows stronger. It is such a comfort to sit down and carry on a sanely intelligent conversation without an interpreter ; and many times one can put in a word that counts when spoken directly, but would be useless if passed through another pair of lips. All our boarding girls who are not yet church members meet each Sabbath before church in the Helping Hand Society. The leaders are from their own number.

The days alternate with snow, rain, sleet and clear sky. There has been sleighing and skating already. Yesterday we saw little boys on the streets having jolly times with skates tied to bear feet. Chilblains and rheumatism are diseases of the Hokkaido. The girls nearly all come to school with their cotton cloth socks which reach only to the ankle, and wooden shoes on their feet, and the wonder is that they have feet at all. Some few are now wearing woolen undergarments patterned something after ours.

My Bible class in school has been a great pleasure. The girls often by their questions make me wish that I had had a theological training.

[p. 202]

THE New York Women's Board acknowledges with hearty thanks a prompt response to the appeal for seventy dollars for an organ for the school at Sapporo, Japan. The whole amount has been given by one friend of Missions.