

[Roll 108, document 156]

Sapporo, Nov. 26, 1887

Dear Mr. Imbrie :

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I enclose the New York letter and apologize for having kept it so long. I intended handing it to Mr. MacNair when he was here this summer but neglected to do so ; and having understood from him that the matter was all settled, or perhaps I misunderstood, [*sic*] I did not trouble myself to forward it, as I ought to have done. As to the plan it proposes I do not see that it would be any improvement on the present one, of which I have no cause for complaint. I prefer the present plan.

You would like a report of the work here. It is well you said "brief," for otherwise you might have been disappointed, as I have neither the time or strength for other than a very brief account of what has been, and is being done here. Not only have I a pile of Normal School examination papers on hand to correct, it being the last of the month, but I am beginning to feel very much exhausted by the year' s work ; and the half day rest once a week does not seem sufficient to restore my strength. I regret that I have only Saturday afternoon free from teaching as it leaves me so little time for writing and other necessary work. You may perhaps think I ought not take up so much work. I have not taken it. It is put upon me. I am all the time trying to push it away. I hope you gentlemen of the Standing committee will consent to Miss Ballagh' s coming here to work for six months or a year. She says she will if the Mission agree to it. I do not wish to "break down" . I do not believe it is right to die even in a good cause if it can be prevented. If there is no help for it I think I must give up the work and go home. I do so dread being sick again, and opportunity for Christian work is not confined to Japan. If I should go home you would not only lose my very valuable services but also seven hundred yen a year. You had better send her. She spoke of the expense to the Mission, but it would not be an expense. You have some two hundred yen of my Normal Salary, and two hundred more of rent money in the treasury. You could not find a better investment for a part of it than in using it to Send Miss Ballagh to Sapporo. And please don' t wait until Spring before giving your consent for her to leave. She can be made as comfortable here as in Tokio. Only the journey will be trying, and that would not be much better in the Spring.

In our Mission work here there is great cause for rejoicing. It has been successful from the very beginning; much more so than I could have

possibly expected. As you know, I came here in January of this year, and at once opened a girls school, which now numbers forty [sic] pupils ; of which eleven are boarders ; all I have room to accommodate. [sic] In September, with Miss Hasebi, from the Bancho school, as teacher, a Kindergarten department was added, which was at once filled. The number is limited to twenty as the only room which could be spared for it is very small ; besides twenty such little ones are quite enough for one teacher to [page ends here]

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[I]t is to be hoped that a suitable house for their accommodation may be procured this coming year. The school pays [i]ts expenses now and would, next year, even with another teacher, could the rent for a house be furnished. Miss Hasebi does great credit to Miss Millican's training as Kindergarten teacher. She is quite a success. Miss Tanaka whom you sent recently, to teach in the girls' school, also thanks to the Bancho Ladies, is a most admirable helper ; and has been a great relief to me in many ways. Twenty five or thirty of the girls attend church and Sunday-school. We have also a Kindergarten Sunday-school of which the average attendance is twenty - children and nurses. The Bible is taught in both schools every day. The government as you have heard, assisted my work very greatly this Summer by building an addition to my house of a fine large school-room, with a sewing room and a dormitory above.

My work in the Normal School seems to give satisfaction. Nineteen of the students have attended a Bible class which I have for them on Sunday after-noon. Fourteen are now in regular attendance. Three have become Christians. One received baptism from Mr. Miller when he was here this Summer, and has gone to Mombetsu as a teacher. I have heard from him several times and he seems to be doing well. The other two are awaiting the coming of Mr. Oshikawa, as are also five of the pupils in the girls' school. Some of the others attending the Bible class are reading the Bible daily and praying for a better knowledge of the True God and Christianity ; and I have every reason to believe that when Mr. Oshikawa comes there may be several to receive baptism. And now let me tell you plainly and please let it be known to the Mission, that if something is not done all my work here will go into the Independent church. When will Mr. Oshikawa, or someone, come to baptize those who are waiting and help those who seem almost persuaded ? I have heard from some that this church will join the union of the Ichi kio and Kumiai unite. [sic] But will it ? Or will they unite?

Mr. Oshima is expecting to go to Tokio soon to receive ordination. He will return prepared to baptize all who wish. I can not say no to them. The young man who recently came from Saikio as an evangelist for this church is very interesting, though not equal to your Hattori, I think ; but he is very industrious and has already attracted two of my Normal boys. What is to be done? But if you will send Miss Ballagh I think we shall be able to “hold the fort.” I have no time for Christian work now. Do send her. Do you not see how everything depends on her coming ?

Before I close let me add my estimates for next year that they may not be too late again. Please make it just the same as last year.