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Report of our work in Sapporo,		Feb 13 1901
for the Annual Letter of 1901.		Mr. Speer.

One of our greatest joys, and I believe blessings, during the past year, was to welcome to Sapporo and to our Northern Star Academy Miss Lillian Wells. We had long been praying and waiting for someone to be sent to help in the work which has become too burdensome and difficult for one woman to continue alone. And we feel that in Miss Wells we have all that could be desired for this most difficult position ; so isolated, and where the work is closely connected with, and yet to be kept independent of, the Japanese. The agitation over the educational questions of the previous year, when we lost a number of pupils, having passed away, our school settled down to its normal condition again, and early in the year we entered over thirty new pupils. The total number registered was near a hundred, but the regular attendance seventy-four. The primary school having been abandoned few of these are under twelve years of age. While this makes teaching pleasanter it also presents difficulties ; one very serious one being that these older girls occupy much more room than the smaller ones and are much more exacting in their demands for accommodation. For this reason, and because the old buildings are badly decaying, we have asked for the means to repair, rebuild and enlarge. We have been pleased to observe a more earnest studying of the Bible and searching of heart among our older pupils, several of whom asked for baptism before the close of the year ; three having already received earlier in the season. Altogether [*sic*] the outlook for the school is very encouraging. The work in connection with the Bible-woman, in the homes and among the relatives of the pupils, has an importance not to be overlooked.

The church here never seemed in a better condition than now under the care of the gentle, spiritual and earnest pastor, Mr. Shimidzu from the Meiji Gakuin ; the attendance each Sabbath being rarely less than a hundred, and from that up to a hundred and twenty-five or thirty. Miss Wells teaches a class of young men in the church Sunday School whither she accompanies our resident pupils who all remain until after church service.

This school numbers a hundred pupils, tho[ugh] the irregular attendance is much larger.

The Sunday School at home which I have charge of, assisted by five of our older pupils, numbers seventy-five with a large irregular attendance.

Much might be said about the difficulties of our work but the encouraging features seem so numerous that the discouraging ones need scarcely to be mentioned.

Very sincerely

S. C. Smith