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Received
Jan 29 1904
Mr. Speer.

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1903.

Hokusei Jo Gakko, Sapporo, December 31st,

My dear Mr. Speer:-

Your good letter was received just as we were get- [unreadable word] to take the train at Tokyo. We had a hard trip with the little boy who was sick for six weeks after we arrived here but he is doing nicely now. We were glad to get back to Hokkaido once more. The work is very encouraging in the school and in the churches[.] We feel very keenly our inability to secure a pastor for the Muroran church[h a]nd also a man to open new work in the very promising field at Kutchan. At Muroran last Sunday Mr. Pierson had the pleasure to receive nine people into the church. A few weeks ago our large self-supporting church at Sapporo also received nine persons into membership. The impressive thing in connection with the latter was that they were all grown people. The young ladies were in the High school or were married while one of the men was a college man and the other two were over fifty years old. The pastor Mr. Shimizu[, p]reached a magnificent sermon on living a determined and earnest Xn [Christian] life[. Mr. Shimizu is soon to sail for America for a year or two of study. He is [a] rare man whom the Lord is using mightily in the redemption of this people.

We all were sorry because of the necessity of asking the Board for the extra grant for the Schoo[l b]ut I am sure when you see the picture you will say that the buildings are fine and that the money has been well spent[. T]he adjoining property now belongs to the Board and it gives to our work a fine piece of land.

We do hope that the Board will see its way clear to grant us the needed Three thousand yen for a house[. O]ur need speaks for itself. You may imagine our extremity when you know that three of us are living in one room and thatb [*sic*] there is no place to put a growing baby[. O]ur bedroom is the sitting room for Mrs. Johnson and the play room for the baby, while my study forced Miss Smith to fit up one of the rooms in the School for herself[. W]hen Miss Ward comes she too will be shut up to one small room. I am hampered in my work in that I can not have the young men come to the house for social evenings etc. A great work is done here by bringing people into your home and letting them see how you live. These visits also furnish opportunities for speaking the appropriate thing about our Saviour. The numerous Christian things which adorn a missionary' s home greatly attract the Japanese[. I] have a fine class of boys in my Bible Class whom I desire to meet in a social way in the home but it can not be done because I am living on the campus of the Girls' School and this would not be proper according to Japanese etiquette.

We have been greatly shocked by the severe injury which Mr. Landis received two weeks ago[. T]he latest reports are that he is improving though being a very sick man. He has moments of consciousness though he is unconscious most of the time[. T]he accident was a great shock to Mrs. Landis who had just received word of the death of her mother.

Miss Smith has been free from any trouble in her knee thus far and we are hoping that she will pass the winter safely[. M]iss Sherman is doing nicely and has good influence over the girls who like her very much. Until Miss Ward comes I am teaching two periods a day in the school and enjoy the teaching very much[. W]hen you read the Report of the Council I am sure you will be delighted to read of the grand work done in the school last year[. H]okusei Jo Gakko reports twenty-three girls converted during the year[. I]f I remember correctly no school of the Council equals this[. I]f the aim of the Mission School is to develop Christian character, and in a country like Japan that is surely their *raison d' etre*, then Hokusei Jo Gakko is fulfilling its mission.

With best for a happy and prosperous New Year for Mrs. Speer[, t]he babies and yourself,

Very sincerely yours;
Weston T. Johnson.

Banzai for Princeton.