

[Roll 115, unnumbered document]

[pp. 1-4]

### Report of the School

Sapporo, Dec 29, 1892

From **at Sapporo.** 1892

Miss

Smith

Mr. Imbrie :

Dear Sir :

~~Your letter reached me only three days before Xmas, when with two Sunday schools and our Girls School on hand I was not able to answer at once as you wished.~~ Our field of work never looked so unpromising as now. September did not show it, but the feeling of opposition against foreigners and against Christianity has reached us. Petty attacks have been made on Mr. Nitobi for marrying a foreigner woman[.] The house of a prominent christian [sic] was mobbed a few Sabbaths ago on account of some reform he was trying to start, and an empty house belonging to the family was mysteriously burnned [sic] a few nights later. The ~~No Gakko~~, or Agricultural Collage, [sic] which is the life of the Hokkaido, is accused of being a christian collage [sic] supported by the government (the accusation coming from Tokyo I understand) and the college has been cut down ten thousand yen. ~~and~~ Mr. Oshima, the pastor of the Sapporo Independent Church, and also ~~the one~~ in charge of the preparatory department of the college has received threatening letters. Dr. Sato, the Director of the college, who is a christian [sic], has received similar ones I understand. In our school we have lost many pupils since opening in September. That is an occurence [sic]

common to every year, but their places have not been filled by new ones entering which is very unusual. The last one who entered boards in town ostensibly to avoid church and prayers and the Christian influence of the school. It being reported that every one who enters must become a christian. [sic] I do not suppose one is in any more danger here than ~~he would be~~ in Tokio or any other place, but it does make it seem a little more lonely ; and one gets so tired of being jossled [sic] and shouted at. It is the bad class of migrants now coming in ~~—which is being sent here~~, I think ; for it used to be quite different. Yet ~~it is~~ things are not so bad as ~~it~~ they might be. The christians [sic] seem more zealous and the communion sabbath never passes without from one to five persons receiving baptism. All the older girls in the school have become earnest workers in our school, Bible classes, and in the Sunday-schools. You doubtless know of the Otaru work from Mr. Kurihara. He seems to be getting on there well. I do not doubt but that Mr. Pierson' s presence would greatly help all our work. Wishing you all a v[ery] Happy New Year [approximately two unreadable words]

S. C. Smith

[Roll 111, document 7]

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1893

DR. GILLESPIE.

Appeal for reinforcements for -- Smith  
Sapporo and that Miss Rose  
be transferred there

Sapporo, Jan. 30, 1893

7 -- G. --

Dr. Gillespie.

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Dear Sir:

Last September, feeling too much the weight of the responsibility of our work here in the Hokkaido, where the feeling of opposition to foreigners and to the education of women had not yet penetrated, I wrote to the gentlemen of the Mission saying that the work was too much for me, that they must either send help or send me home or to some place where I would not be alone. I felt there was no longer need of my remaining here unless the place was to be opened as a station ; as the catholics [*sic*] and Methodists had each built a church the "Church of England" had opened a station, and the Congregational people were here looking for land on which to build: and though I had worked hard for eight years and had borne inexpressable loneliness [*sic*] and unmentionable trials and sorrows ; had seen a church grow up in Hakodate, another in Mombetsu, and now one in Sapporo where many of our people are gathered from different parts of the country and where our native pastor has baptized between thirty and forty [*sic*] persons within a short time ; and helped at the opening of a station in Otaru ; yet as my only object has been to work where work seemed the most needed and where I could do my best and accomplish the most, now that that time is passed, and I feel that I can do but little more, alone, I am willing to leave it to those who are coming and are stronger than I and into whos [*sic*] hands it must eventually pass, in a great measure, unless the Mission think it best to open the place as a station, as I have said, and send some one to take the evangelistic work. When I returned from America I pleaded for this and Dr. Thompson was promised, but for some reason he did not come and I have looked in vain for anyone. I fully intended to have written you at the same time as to the gentlemen of the

Mission, or to have sent you a copy of my letter to them, but irregularities in the school caused by two of the pupils being in the hospital, and a teacher leaving on account of her health, and a good deal of friction arising from the adoption of a new course of study, and the head teacher's persistance [*sic*] in disarranging my plans in regard to the supported scholars and in opposition to the written contracts which I held from their parents, (happily the girls all stood by me and their contracts) all these things giving me more care and more work I neglected to write. When finally school was settled and I was somewhat relieved I decided not to write until I had again heard from Miss Rose who had expressed a willingness to come and take part in the work should she decide to return to Japan. I have heard from her ; and, after understanding matters pretty well, as she seems willing to come, if the Mission think best to continue the work here, I hope indeed that you will allow her to do so. For while I could not recommend it for a young girl unacquainted with the people and language, since Miss Rose has once visited the place and knows all about it, if she is willing to take the risk I see no reason why she should not. But even then I should feel obliged to oppose her coming if I thought she would ever be left quite alone, as I once was, and be tempted to re[main] very long thus waiting for help. In reply to my letter to the Mission I was informed that Mr. Pierson, as the only available person, had been asked to go to the Hokkaido. I do not yet know if he will come. There have been some changes since September and what the Mission is intending to do I am waiting to see. I shall need to know by the last of May as our lease of the government buildings which our school occupies will expire then, and I shall wish to know what to do about trying to get it renewed. There has never been much interest felt in the work here as it is too far from Tokio ; and perhaps it may be deemed best to discontinue it. The time for most uninterrupted work has no doubt passed, as other denominations are now coming in, though ours is the strongest work as yet. This letter is es[pec]ially to ask you to consid[er] the matter of sending Miss Rose to Sapporo if I am to remain longer than until our present lease expires. For while I do not regret having come and remained here thus long alone, yet from my experiences I feel it is not wise to do so longer, nor do I feel now,<sup>1</sup> as I once did, that there is a call for it.

Yours very respectfully  
Sarah C. Smith

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<sup>1</sup>The words *feel now* are not completely clear in the original.