

[Roll 116-117, unnumbered document]

[pp. 1-3]

Enclosure No. 10.

Report of
S. C. Smith

Sapporo, Jan. 9, 1897

As my work is principally school work it changes but little from year to year. Miss Rose has had entire charge of the educational department since her coming two years ago. My work has been to teach such classes as were given me and to look after the house generally and the thirty boarders particularly, out of school hours.

Numerically the school has prospered. We have registered eighty pupils since January last. Many of them it is true we have been unable to retain for more than a few days or weeks or months; tho [*sic*] the majority have been regular and still continue with us. As the Bible is a text-book and all are taught from it every day we can only hope that those who stop only for a short time will at least have learned that christianity [*sic*] is a good thing and thus lessen the prejudice against it. Besides my class work and care of the boarders and the house-keeping both foreign and Japanese, I have two catechism classes ; one numbers six and the other eleven students, several of whom hope to receive baptism sometime this year.

Our “ King’ s Daughters [”] and “ Helping Hands ” classes give great satisfaction. These classes have a membership of twenty-five and are very popular in and helpful to the school. They have knit and earned fifty yen during the past two years to help pay the debt of five hundred yen due next year (The five hundred borrowed) Towards the paying of which one hundred has been collected and much more promised by the Japanese friends of the school.

It is also my duty to look after our three Sapporo sunday-schools [*sic*] and supply two others at a distance with text cards, and give such help and encouragement by letter as I am able ; visiting them in the summer. The number of children registered in our Sapporo sunday-schools [*sic*] during the past year is three hundred and fifty-eight. We have had printed and have given out about fifteen thousand scripture text-cards in our Sunday schools this year. The month of July I spent traveling in the interior with a

Bible woman. Our meetings were well attended. At one of them a young woman introduced herself as a pupil of Miss Hesser of Kanazawa. She had walked seven miles to see me, carrying her young child. She spoke in the most loving terms [*sic*] of her teacher and spoke of the comfort that her knowledge of the Saviour gave her here in this lonely place. We have had some disappointments, some failures and some things to discourage; Some things to make us glad and some to make us sad ; some encouragement and a good measure of success. For all of which the Master[']s name be praised.

Yours very sincerely.

Jan. 9, 1897 Sarah C. Smith