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My dear, dear Mrs. Hibbs,

Is it more
a letter? I don't know. And it doesn't
matter. I know you will be glad
to hear any way. I have a lot to say
but I don't know where to begin.
I shall just write in the
order of the time.

By the time this
letter goes out we will be
on our way back to Japan. We expect to be gone about
Tokyo and three weeks. We will go to
Ginsenji to take a walk and I
will go to Kairisamurai. I was
last Sunday. There we left Tokyo at 10 AM, ride the rail road
to the sea side, and then three
days were visiting places of interest.
One day for a walk in a
real forest of large trees and
young and old among the islands
of Miyakojima bay. There are
200 islands of strange shape rock
formation. Only a little imagination
turns them into faces and
animals. Islands not more than
one square have pine trees of good
size growing on them. Many of them
have caves and some times the island
make arches.

From Sasebo I was on a boat
from Amakiri to the northern part
of the main island. The sky is
not very pretty but the scenery is
fine - blue hills and sea
at the same time. We were at sea
for days on a Japanese boat, sailing
out the coast line setting fire
ships on the shore. The boat is
not a steamer and it crossed over
to the northern island. Crossed over
Hokkaido as it is now commonly
called. It was at this time
at first we were in Amakiri
bay later on in the open sea
into another bay after five hours
we sighted the island. It was new
and never surprised at the
size and beauty. It was a
delightful trip. We landed
at Hakodate. The city is
very large and has a port
which connects to the mountains
of the mt. is strongly built. The
city sometimes spoken of as the
Gibraltar of Japan. The
city has double light houses
and has lighthouses.

From Hakodate a few miles
brought us to Otaru yet the distance
is less than ten miles - the sea
was rough throughout the morning
so much so that the train went
very slowly. The people here are
very kind. You are more like us,
scenery though they have seen in
Japan before. You see the landscape
is about the same. The flowers
resemble that of N.Y. They
are big plates full and
apple orchards. It did not give
me a chance to see any apple trees.
Five weeks, except last week
primroses etc. made no impression.
Many of the house flowers George
had not seen for five years.
Nearly all day we were in
sight of a certain place about
7 AM. It is high. Some time we
saw it on the side of the hill
but sometimes not the
other. Several times we had a
view of it with quite a large
river in the foreground. It is
very beautiful.

Here at Otaru we are on the
sea shore again and the mountains
are all around. We are staying
with a foreign family, I believe
there are only four foreign
families in the city. We are in
a Japanese house. It is on a hill
which overlooks the city and
the bay. There is a bridge all
day and at night it is rather
dark down in the city but
is hot during the middle
of the day. Otaru is a city
of 100,000 inhabitants. Since the
last ten years it doubled its
population. It reminds me of
some of our Western towns
that are "booming". But a week
we shall be here. Next week
we go on to Sapporo.

I have written on little to
come I can hardly wait
for her reply. I know she will
be happy to be with me
again and I should be so
happy to have her here. I
feel sure George would like
her too.

In care the angel writing
With love
Cora.