

while things and people do appear diminutive to me — as they are — I appreciate with heightened feelings of admiration the beauty of nature in Japan mountains, soft in the hazy distance, fields of vegetables, waving rice-fields in almost unbroken masses, unmarred by unsightly fences, the farm landscape a mass of brightest green, and the whole effect softened and intensified by the beauty of the warm summer sky.

Japan is beautiful, and here in Kofu we have given to us a rich share of the beautiful scenery. I count as one of our blessings, the privilege of enjoying such scenery. Mountains surrounding us on every side, with Fuji now gleaming white in its snowy covering, rearing its proud head high over all the green rice-fields of the plain; now changing to yellow a landscape, varied by numerous houses and trees dotting the plain, and often times, crowning all, great snowy-cloud billows or a golden sunset sky. To be sure, there is an off-set to this, strong cold winter winds and frequently a hard journey in getting here. This time I felt the rough shaling and jolting in the "basha," the long ride, and the indigified but necessary bargaining with "basha" men very much. We had bad roads and rain, and to cap the climax our "basha" upset; but, fortunately, not one of us was hurt. There were four in our party and two Japanese men besides. As we went over, no one uttered a word, we preserved a dignified silence; but we were compelled to crawl out of the "basha" in anything but a dignified fashion.

Familiar scenes and short absence from them make the change less marked from the home-life to life in Japan. It is very nice to be amongst Kofu friends, and the old life comes back to me quite readily.

The work in the school and amongst the women and children is fairly going now. All through there is much to encourage. A number of changes are being made in the school staff—old teachers leaving and new ones taking their place.

One of our brightest students died during the holidays. She was a Christian girl, and had been over three years in the school. Two of her sisters, who were also students for a time, are both Christians. One of our little Sunday-school