

Charter of the Citizens of Sapporo

As proclaimed by Dr. William S. Clark, President of the Sapporo Agricultural College, 1876

My friends and fellow citizens, Under the ringing bell of our noble Clock Tower, let us give thanks to Providence, for we dwell in Sapporo — a city born of vast nature and the steadfast spirit of the pioneers who tamed this northern wilderness. Here, upon this generous soil, we build not merely houses and roads, but a community of hope, ever reaching toward the bright horizon of the future. Let us, therefore, take pride in our citizenship, wish for one another ' s happiness, and establish this Charter of the Citizens of Sapporo, that we may live as good and faithful stewards of this land.

Of Labor and Prosperity

Let us labor with vigor and purpose, that our city may abound in both wealth and virtue. Let the body and the spirit be tempered alike — strong against the frost of winter and the blaze of summer. Let there be joy in work and harmony in every home. Take pride in your craft, and let each workshop and field be filled with the gladness of honest toil. When we unite our strength, the industries of Sapporo shall blossom like the lilac in spring.

Of Cleanliness and Beauty

Let the heavens above and the earth beneath be kept pure and fair. Let no smoke darken the air, nor waste pollute the streams, nor noise disturb the peace of men. Keep your dwellings and streets bright and clean, and let flowers bloom where feet pass daily. Cherish the trees and grasses of our parks; defile not the common places we share. Let us cast away every unsightly poster and coarse advertisement, for beauty itself is the mark of a noble heart.

Of Order and Peace

Let order reign among us, that peace may dwell within our gates. Be punctual in assemblies; be obedient to the laws of the road, that no life be lost through folly or haste. Together, let us cast out violence from our midst. Be mindful of one another, giving no offense and bearing none. Show kindness to all—especially to the aged and to those burdened in body or circumstance. For where charity abides, there also dwells the spirit of Heaven.

Of Children and the Future

Let Sapporo be a haven for children, the architects of all our tomorrows. Discipline and virtue must be planted early, as seeds in the springtime of life. In bright and wholesome homes, let us raise strong sons and daughters, endowed with conscience and courage. Let the home and the school labor hand in hand, that the light of knowledge may reach every heart. Protect them from all that corrupts the mind or harms the soul. For each child is not thine alone, but the child of society, and the hope of our city ' s dawn.

Of Culture and the World

Let Sapporo stand as a city of high culture, joined in friendship with the nations of the Earth. Let us fashion our garments, our food, our dwellings with wisdom suited to this northern clime. Let music and art enrich our daily life, that the soul may not grow barren amid prosperity. Guard the treasures of our heritage, and raise up the culture of all the people. Grasp the hands of the world ' s scholars and artists, that together we may advance the light of learning and the beauty of civilization.

Citizens of Sapporo — Let your faith be steadfast, your hearts pure, your labors enduring. And remember always: Be ambitious! Not for gold, nor for fame, but for the good of your city, the glory of your nation, and the advancement of mankind under Heaven. May God bless this land and the noble citizens who call it home.

— Dr. William Smith Clark