



1896-02-12

Letter from Annie Hay to [John Muir], 1896 Feb 12.

Annie Hay

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interesting and if there was any means of making a livelihood you would tell us and also if there might be an opening, & I promised to write to you. Willie is twenty one - he and our James celebrated their majority at the end of last year - He is "not much to look at" but is a smart business fellow and has a strong sense of duty and fidelity.

Now I have told you what I want to say about that and if you will in your kindness of heart try and spare a little time to tell us what you think we shall be so very glad.

Mersey View House
92 Bridge St
Birkenhead
12th Feb. 1896

My dear Cousin,

Father has been speaking ever since Christmas of writing to you and I have no doubt ~~his~~ intentions are honourable but he has been unusually busy and so as I want to ask you something I won't wait but must write while the spirit moves me.

We have had staying with us for eighteen months a young lad whose father and mother were my oldest and dearest friends. They are both dead and as he had no relatives he came to live with us. His father was for many years a much esteemed Doctor in Lpool - Educated

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in Edinburgh where I knew him as a student. He was one of the most charming characters I have ever met and it has been a great joy to us to be able to share our home with his son. His mother also was a clever and remarkable woman.

Willie Howie has never been very strong but is now fairly healthy and has been for about four years engaged in a Wholesale Ship's Stores concern and as he has no capital he sees no prospect before him but to settle down as a clerk in an office. He has lately been thinking whether it would be better for him to go to Canada with a friend who has been learning

farming there as he says all he wishes or can expect is to make a living to keep himself.

When thinking about him I remembered your telling us about your vine growing and that you can always find work for young men. and Maria also had been thinking about "Our John Muir" and telling Willie that it might be possible that something might be found to suit him if we consulted you. So down comes Willie to father and me who were asleep in our bed to hear what we thought, father thought the climate would be fine and the work

We often often speak about
you and wonder if you have
been away straggling on
the mountains again. &
when we look at the photos
of your beautiful little
Lassies we wonder if we
are ever to see them or

their mother. Mole Hardie
has been wonderfully well
this winter but is this week
rather poorly with cold
And dear Aunt Polly is very
very frail, her sight has
become so very bad too and
altogether you would
know a great change upon her.
Mr Jeffrey is pretty well & it
is a mercy for she has to take
care of the others. Father has
been kept very busy over the

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Restoration of Dunbar Parish Church - sometimes I think he is to be worried beyond endurance with the bother however the estimates are all signed now, and when you come again you will not know the interior of the "Auld Kirk". Auntie Luanan & Maggie are well but you will likely be hearing from them soon & then.

Our boys and girls are all well and happy. John has still gone on successfully took last summer the "Holt" scholarship £100 - but he finds he has to work hard for it in the dissecting room. He has got Dr. to his name but is not finished another exam wanted for "M. B.". He is working very hard and looks white I tell him. Sammie is still devoted to Art painting

pictures and attending the Art school. Maria is house-keeper for the last year since my health failed and baby - Peppie is now at school. Oh how nice if you were not so far away and we could meet (our families) sometimes.

I am wanted to take a little walk while the sun shines and so I must close.

There is one to whom distance is as nothing, and in His love we rest and trust. Give my love to Mr & Mrs Muir and the dear babies and believe me your affectionate Cousin
Annie Hay