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Letter from [John Muir] to Louie [Strentzel Muir] , 1896 Jun 11.

John Muir

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Portage, June 11, 1896

Dear Louie I got here yesterday at 2 o'clock P. M.

When I was within ~~two~~² hrs of Kearney I telegraphed ahead to Mary & she & Willis & all the children met me ~~at~~ the station. The train stopped on 2 or 3 minutes & I had barely time to rush out & drag Mary & Helen aboard before Willis could say boo.

We found Mother very sick & low & Sarah & Annie said God has sent you. But this morning Mother is much better & ate a good breakfast & asked me all about you & Grandma Wanda & Helen. She has been confined to bed only a day or two & seems quite bright & hopeful. Of course she was very glad to see Mary & me - "her ain burns" as she said. The doctor tells me that she is likely to recover from this last illness (biliousness) & live comfortably through the summer.

But she is now 83 yrs old & is liable
to leave us any time.

I feel sleepy & benumbed after so
much carbonic acid in the sleeping
car. & the natural care that comes
with mother's condition.

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Sarah & Grandma & Annie were extremely
glad to see Mary. about whose coming
they had no news. Of course I'll
stop here until I see whether
mother is going to get well. & then
be governed by circumstances.

Mother said so eagerly this morning
that she would like to see Wanda
I almost wish I had tried to
bring her.

I'll let you know
when any change occurs. Be very
careful about fire - Ever yours
With love to all

I'll write soon to the children -