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Letter from Sarah [Muir] Galloway to John Muir, 1893 Mar 28.

Sarah Muir Galloway

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Portage, Wis.

March 28/93.

Dear Brother John

Your letter
and order was received in
due time and you will
probably hear from Joanne
before you receive this.
The past year has been an
exceedingly trying one for
her. Walter has been so dis-
couraged about his business
affairs, and especially so,
for the last few months,
but the old proverb has proved
true in her case, "that it is
always darkest just before
dawnlight." Walter feels that
now he has succeeded, and
will now be able to supply
her with all she requires

after he draws his first month's salary, indeed he has always sent her a little as he could, but it was very little, and sometimes much needed before it came. As soon as Joanna let us know how matters stood both Mother and I, let her have some money until she could be supplied. then your generous order came to help her through the hard place, and so altogether the cloud has lifted. the more so as she now expects to move to Philadelphia in a few months and so the family will be united again and that is the best of all as the separation has been long and weary.

I am ashamed to see how long it is since I received

that good, kind, letter from you, I see it is dated Jan 13 and is full of kind words, and wishes, and it also brings to my mind that I have never thanked you for your Christmas remembrance. You are always doing so many kind things. I wonder if I shall ever be able to do other, than to thank you with words, though the Lord knows they are heartfelt.

It will be a glad day for me when the Kansas bond increases in value and can be sold so that I can repay you as far as money goes, but your kind thought for us all and your long, ready help in the dark days can never be repaid.

We have all got along very well the past year and

have been beautifully supplied with all we need. Your kindness supplied us to begin with, then John Reiel has sent his order regularly and while the girls have been in the store they also have helped right along so there has been no lack. I have also got my usual supply of wood, to last most of the year and it is paid for, also my rent is paid as I go along, and I have a little put away besides. So you see I have much to be thankful for, and if I only had a little more strength I would get along very well. The sketch of your life has not appeared in the Century Magazine

yet, perhaps it will be coming later. The little poem you wrote off for me I thank you for, it is very comprehensive, how many thoughts and facts are packed into those few lines, the writer seems to be well acquainted with your writings and able to appreciate them.

When I received that last letter from you it took me back in thought to the time when you were traveling about among the mountains and taking care of sheep, the it was written on a small sheet of paper, packed close and full, looking like dozens of those I have laid away, telling of the hills, and flowers, and the thoughts that came to you

as you looked upon that
wonderful scenery all so new
to you, before you had written
for the press or that first
look. do you remember that
I have the old quill you wrote
it with, you ^{gave} it to me to keep
as a memento. The snow
is nearly gone now, just
a patch here and there, the
winter has been long and severe
but perhaps we will enjoy the
beautiful spring days the more
with the sunshine and flowers.
There is certainly far less sickness
now than after the milder
winters. Give my love to Louie
and tell her I have been wondering
if she is coming to the world's fair
and so we may have a visit with
her and perhaps some of the others
of the family. Also love to the children
and Grandpa. and yourself John
Affectionately Sarah.