



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1874-01-25

Letter from [Joanna Muir] to May [Mary Muir], 1874 Jan 25.

Joanna G. Muir

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was so moderate^[43] that I thought
best to come, and I am so glad
that I did. I do not know why,
but I enjoy myself fifty per
cent. better than last term.
I have another study too, yet
do not have half the anxiety
over my lessons, and yet
I think I stand better in my
classes.

But I must tell you what a
wonderful thing I did ~~last night~~
last night, you know I am a
member of the Lyceum, so my
first attempt at debating (in
public) came off last night,
and, instead of trembling or
fearing, I was as placid and
calm as an untroubled lake
not even doing that which is
so easy for me to do, turn red.
On taking my seat I was heartily
cheered, and at recess my day,
what congratulations flowed in

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(13)

Worcester, Columbia Co., N.Y.
Annex to well, her address is

Osh. Wis. Jan 25. '74.

Dear Mr. May.

And so I have actually
had the pleasure of hearing from my
lost sister again. I came home Friday
night from school, threw down my
things, sat down by the window and
feebly exclaimed, Well, I guess the
folks don't care anything about me.
For three weeks have passed, and
not a word I was ready to weep with
regret. I could not be comforted and
pondered whether or not I would
write to you again. Evening came
and Mrs Cornell, the lady with whom
I board (for I am boarding this term)
announced two young gentlemen.

waiting below to see my room mate
and myself, and joyful was
I when one of them placed two
letters in my hand, one from
you the other from Annie, they
had kindly enquired for me
and also interested spending the
evening, it being Friday night,
for they were two of our classmates,
and I was obliged to sacrifice my
anxiety to read my letters, to polite-
ness, and entertain them. But
oh! May how glad I am again
to hear from you.

Yes I was home Christmas and
found everything much as of yore
indeed it seemed as though they
had the same dish rag and that
it hung in the same place, that
each chair stood on the same spot
that Mother had never changed
either dress, apron or shoes, or in

fact that there had been a single
motion in the house since I
left. We had a fine time
Christmas, made a new,
calico dress, which has since
been the admiration of the
whole school, I also remodeled
another, so that I was pretty
busily engaged, I then returned
to school, have a splendid
boarding place, the most pleas-
ant I ever had in my life,
and only pay \$300. per week,
and have my washing done
too, certainly I was directed
here by an unseen hand,
my room mate is a very
agreeable little body and
I am happy. It was not con-
venient for me to room this
term, as my old room mate
left me, and then the weather
seemed very cold to do our
own work, and this board