



1874-05-06

Letter from [John Muir] to Mary [Muir], [1874] Sep 11.

John Muir

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Oakland Sep 11

My dear A. A. Highland
Orary I am off
for an excursion into
the Sierra again & so
farewell.

I hope you find the
world full of light &
love & color. That
your life is clear to
absorb & enjoy it.

I had a letter from
Prof. Butler lately. You
cannot go there at times
How do you progress
with your painting
I have a friend here
Mr. Keith, a splendid artist
with whom I wish you

Address Oakland as before
might practice! Yet I am glad
you did not come out here. I dislike
the town & most of the spirit. That per-
vades it. The more I see of it. & the more
all hopes of being long enough in one
place to make anything like a home
for you seems more improbable every
day.

Work hard & continuously for
there is nothing like it. Yet be sure
that you do not work fretfully & anxiously
for that is destructive to health. I see
that you do not want for anything
you require. While for the sake of
independence you practice economy
It is easier to practice a mean & hurtful
economy than a wise & comfort making one
Have you any friend in Madison
that you can trust for counsel in case
of need. I think Prof Butler is true & faithful
Heaven bless you my Cassie & cheer
I love you as you deserve, fare ye well

[Original letter in possession of Mrs. Mary Muir Hand]

Oakland, Sep. 11, [1874].

My dear bra highland Mary:

I am off for an excursion into the Sierra again and so farewell. I hope you find the world full of light and love and color and that your life is clear to absorb and enjoy it.

I had a letter from Prof. Butler lately. You must go there at times. How do you progress with your painting? I have a friend here, W. Keith, a splendid artist with whom I wish you might practice. Yet I am glad you did not come out here. I dislike the town and most of the spirit that pervades it the more I see of it, and then all hopes of being long enough in one place to make anything like a home for you seems more improbable every day.

Work hard and continuously, for there is nothing like it. Yet be sure that you do not work fretfully and anxiously, for that is destructive to health, and see that you do not want for anything you require while for the sake of independence you practice economy. It is easier to practice a mean and hurtful economy than a wise and comfort making one.

Have you any friend in Madison that you can trust for counsel in case of need? I think Prof. Butler is true and faithful. Heaven bless you, my lassie, and cheer and love you as you deserve.

Fare ye well. Address Oakland as before.

[John Muir]

[Envelope addressed Mary Muir, Madison, Wisconsin, postmarked Oakland, Sept. 14, no year given]

[Year 1874 supplied, because Muir appears, from letters to Mrs. Carr of about this date, to have visited Oakland about this time]