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Letter from W[illiam] H. Trout to [John Muir], [1876 Aug].

William H. Trout

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I do not know how to thank you
enough for your splendid photo
we know how to appreciate it you may
depend I send you a poor return
the eyes have a dazed expression
I meant not to have sent it but
to sit again. However an accident
in a small ^{way} has happened ^{Friday last} me,
while putting up an iron stove
front here; a joist fell taking
me heavily on the eye brow and nose,
bruised and peeled both somewhat
but inflicted no severe injury.

Strangers might think to see me,
that I was the victim of a big row.

My countenance is certainly not
such as I wish to photograph and
send to my friends. This also
accounts for your getting this
letter so day as I am not fit to be
seen in meeting.

The other card represents our family
as it was $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago; about a year and
quarter before the decease of the same two
children. Our present family is
much the same except that the sexes
are reversed as we have a little
daughter now eleven months old since
last writing you. You must
readily admit that I have the ad-
vantage of you in ~~the studio~~ ^{the studio}

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The study of one of the physical sciences
that is the growth and development of
the human species. My knowledge
is as Utilitarians would say of an
eminently practical kind. I think
your curriculum will be ^{adequately} efficient
without this branch. I find it
wonderfully interesting it engages
the affections as well as the understand-
ing, promotes patience by giving
it frequent exercise also self control
and a number of other virtues.
On the whole it is a very healthy
study and I would advise you to
take it up as it ought to be in
course with you by this time.

I am doing my best to get
off the Centennial the latter part of
the coming month Mrs. T. will go to
Meaford at the same time.

I suppose your interest in the arts
will hardly bring you so far but
it would be like coming home for you.
I should greatly like to meet you then.
I shall be there the first and second
weeks of September at least.

Will good bye for this time. You
will hear from us again this winter.
Mrs. T. joins with me in kindest love.
Yours &c. W. H. Frost.