



1878-03-06

## Letter from Joanna [Muir] to John Muir, 1878 Mar 6.

Joanna G. Muir

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fact, pretty much every thing has  
 been hard this winter excepting  
 the roads which have been very  
<sup>soft</sup> muddy and some people's  
 heads. Yet, though in the midst  
 of all <sup>this</sup> difficulty, we have not  
 felt it, except in our sym-  
 pathy for others. We had a  
 letter from Father a week ago, who  
 reports himself very well, very  
 useful and very happy.

What could you ask, ~~farther~~  
 for mortal man?

John Reid still intends going to Neb.  
 and will start soon for the purpose  
 of inspecting. Maggi, Sarah, David

and Sam are  
 in about their  
 usual health  
 and their  
 families, etc.  
 Mother sent you  
 a pair of socks  
 a few weeks  
 ago, & expects  
 they are safely  
 received.  
 Very much love  
 from us all.  
 Joanna.

Portage, Wis.  
 March 6, 1878.

Dear Brother John,

How do you do, and how  
 have you been doing all this long  
 time? Does your quill still move  
 on, and books still continue to  
 be born? Are you well, and are  
 you happy? I hope that all  
 this wisdom about such mighty  
 things as mountains range

glaciers etc, etc, has not the effect of making you so dignified and sage that I shall feel thankful when you come home for I am now "too big" to hide behind my mother's apron and I should be in a very embarrassed condition.

Things here, mostly, move on very calmly. Mary has gone to Madison for a few weeks (to which place we forwarded your letter) Annie teaches and teaches, Mother works and rests, Fanny rests and rests and makes up faces, then

rests some more, tries to be patient and makes up faces again, rests longer, tries harder yet to be good, then makes up faces again, Thus the law of her members wars against the law of her mind, and I keep up quite a cannonading at times.

I wonder if you hear the word "hard" used as much in Cal. as we do here. In this part of the world the most frequent subjects of conversation are, Hard times, hard money, hard work and hard hearts; In