



1878-04-02

## Letter from David [Muir] to John Muir, 1878 Apr 2.

David Muir

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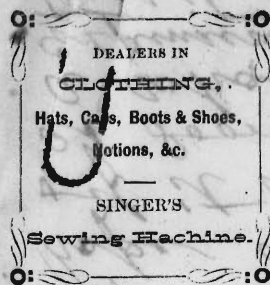
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# Parry & Muir.

## CASH DRY GOODS HOUSE,

20, West Cook-street.

Portage, Wis., April 2 1878

My Dear Brother John

At last I've  
got started writing to you  
I really do feel ashamed  
of my self for permitting  
myself to neglect answering  
your always welcome letters  
I think however the cause  
is hard times, unprosperous times,  
& the terribly hard scratching  
to make business go at all  
Last harvest every thing looked  
more than usually promising  
good crop fair prices &c &c  
It rained all the fall, we had  
no winter - mud all through  
the winter months. so we had  
no fall trade & no winter trade

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~~and~~ we had <sup>2</sup> a large stock we  
had to pay for our goods before  
they were sold consequently had  
to borrow a great deal &  
then the goods sold so slowly  
that the profits did not half  
pay expenses. so I've been blue  
& worried & fretted & it seemed  
to me that I would be glad  
to run away without a cent  
just for freedom's sake. I wish  
you could find a rich gold  
mine so that I could get  
enough to pay our debts  
Now I have envious your  
freedom from care & trouble  
& still I would not take your  
single blessedness our  
hope is that the tide will turn  
if it does I'll get out of this  
as soon as I can do so with  
a whole pile. We have an  
expensive establishment, in good  
times it pays & in bad times we lose

DEALERS IN  
CLOTHING,  
Hats, Caps, Boots & Shoes,  
Notions, &c.  
—  
SINGER'S  
Sewing Machine.

3  
Parry & Muir.  
CASH DRY GOODS HOUSE,  
20, West Cook-street.

Portage, Wis., ..... 187

Money & latter we have had  
worse times than usual, but the  
last fall & winter cows are  
very folks are pretty well now  
I enclose pictures of Willie & Johnie  
our youngest two. My family  
are all at school Johnie  
is 5 1/2 years old on a jolly  
chap, he is although he looks  
sleek in the picture. Father  
is reported very healthy  
& contented in Canada  
mother Mary & Annie are  
well saw most of them  
yesterday Joanna had a  
bad week last week poor  
girl she has been pretty well  
all winter & looking well most  
of the time. she needs lots of patience

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+ deserves lots of sympathy & love  
her sickness seems to make her  
more lovely & sweet in her disposition  
every day. She has a quiet home  
& everything she needs & wants  
for which we should be thankful.  
Joe Price is on the rampage  
in Nebraska or Kansas.

Maggie is just about her  
usual. looks pale & tired &  
yet most of the time able  
to be about. riding out &  
working too. her girls Lennie & Julia  
are big strong well behaved  
sensible girls. Sarah is  
pretty healthy looking for her  
& her folk are well.  
About money I will try to  
send you some in June  
will that do? I wrote to Dan  
that you needed money  
he answered that he would  
send it to me before this  
time. but he has not done  
so yet. He reports doing  
a large business but can't collect

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5  
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60782  
No on acct of the hard times  
Dan is doing splendidly  
he has a large practice &  
is very successful he  
says he can book \$4000. per  
year. I often see men from  
Racine who all report him  
very successful & in high standing  
in that city as a physician  
How I would like to see you  
& yet I would not like to  
have you here now because  
things are so blue & it dont  
seem as if I could have  
time to enjoy you as I  
would if every thing was  
lively. write soon. your letters  
do me good I see all of  
your letters they go all the

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sounds of the family. as soon  
as a letter arrives from you  
all have to best read it  
a great many from the  
country enquire for you.  
Mort Maynard is strongly  
in love with you. also  
Mrs McReath & David Thompson

When & in what Magazine  
will your next article  
appear. I generally watch the contents  
& secure a copy as soon as  
the new monthlies arrive  
here the last I got was the  
Ousel piece. Now that  
the spell is broken perhaps  
I will be more brotherly  
hereafter & write again  
& try me. I believe me  
always most affectionately  
Your Bro David