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1878-11-17

**Letter from Janet Douglass [Moore] to John Muir, 1878 Nov 17 .**

Janet Douglass Moore

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feel. Now I should like to hear you  
 talk about them - You could tell  
 me so much. Prof. Jordan is not  
 more than twenty-seven, but a re-  
 markably intelligent man. He has  
 written two books on Vertebrate Animals.  
 I think. He has read your articles &  
 Aunt Kate & I have talked to him  
 about you, so that he wants to know  
 when you are coming back to Indi-  
 ana. Just think, if the face at med-  
 ical was as cheap in proportion as it is  
 in New York at present, that is one  
 dollar. You might have us all  
 on your hands! Now would you  
 like that? If you don't come back  
 soon will surprise you some of  
 these days. I'm afraid the Yo-  
 semite wouldn't be a good place to  
 fatten mamma up, though.

November 17th. 1878.

To my library.

My Dear Mr. Muir.

I am much ashamed  
 & mamma is ashamed of me, that  
 after receiving your sweet kind letters  
 & your picture, I have never acknow-  
 ledged them. I was afraid to write  
 soon for fear I might bother you & so  
 the time flew by & I neglected to write.  
 Until now it is nearly winter.  
 I have placed your photograph on the  
 desk before me, so it'll seem more  
 like talking with you. Now that  
 I am used to the picture, you  
 seem to have changed little. Any-  
 how your face looks as kind & pleasant  
 as it used to - ten years ago.  
 I told you in my last letter of the

changes, that we little folks had passed through. In the last six or eight months there have been other changes. Merrill is at home now, has been reading Blackstone this fall & will soon enter a law office. He is the same tracing, careless, enthusiastic fellow - I might add unselfish for he is that, although a little spoiled. When at home, he can go to sleep a dozen times a day, sitting up or spread out on the floor, it makes no difference in what position he is. I shall not be surprised to see him sometimes standing in the middle of the room and a sleep. But he can work hard enough to make up for his naps, he has been digging away at the law very perseveringly, instructing Mamuda as he went along. Poor Mamuda would perhaps be

reading an interesting magazine article when Merrill would break in with "Oh Mamma, you must hear this" - I believe you used to think him too fond of newspapers, well, he has the same fault now, if fault it is. But I must tell you of the others. Katie Graydon graduated in June - Indeed, she never looked so beautiful & never appeared so well as she did on that day. Everybody praised her & she deserved it. I know you like fresh, cozy good girls and she is one. She is teaching here now, in the city & has her hands full. Charles & I still go to Provington - This is my last year and I am enjoying myself. We have been hearing lectures from Prof. Jordan on the Glaciers - It is a very interesting sub-

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she is a very good Mamma. Though Merrill sometimes says to her that she is the worst mother he ever had, she'll read this letter before I send it, so I'll not praise her. She does not need it. She has instructed me to give you her love and thanks & to inform you that she will write as soon as possible. We have all enjoyed your article on the "Leguonia" in Harper. Merrill, Charles & I are going to a banquet next Thursday night & expect to have a grand time. Don't you wish you were twenty & going a party? or are you past that? Could you a picture of a lacee you used to know. Can you guess her? Yours affectionately, Janet Douglas