



1879-01-17

Letter from Joanna [Muir] to John Muir, 1879 Jan 17.

Joanna Muir

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Mother and the rest of the family are as well as usual and are passing the winter pretty comfortably. We had our usual Christmas gathering and all look forward hopefully to the Sept as the time for a Complete family reunion. We do sincerely hope that this may take place as after that time some money very likely scatter out to Alb. and then it will be almost impossible for all to gather in.

I trust you are again comfortably located for the winter.

I am knitting socks for you which I will soon send and I take great pleasure in my work as I remember who is to wear them. This work just suits me as it does not require much looking at.

Mother read
your letter and
we'll soon write
She and Annie
and love as
does also your
Sister
Emma

Portage Jan. 17. 1879.

My dear tanned rich Brother John:

Your three Scribner "letters" were read with deepest interest and appreciation, I liked all exceedingly. But the Mind Storm seemed like poetry or music from beginning to end and vibrated and tingled through my being, while I tried to see the grand old pine trees waving

and solemnly in the gale ^{and} "every
needle thrilling, and ringing, and
shedding off keen lances of light like
a diamond." The Douglas Spruce with
long sprays drawn out in level tuces
and needles massed in a gray shimmering glow." etc. etc. This article
and the Humming Bird of Cal.
I love more than all the others.

Since my Dickins in which
I have had so much distress in
my head and eyes, my brain
refuses everything which
requires special thought or
study, consequently some of

your more scientific articles
are entirely beyond me, though
I should love dearly to understand
them, for I feel deeply my
ignorance of God's book of
nature as well as of His
written word and I long to
know much more of both.
And I trust the time of study
is yet coming for me;
My health still improves, in
some respects I think I feel
better than ~~before~~ before my
last summers back setting though
I cannot walk as much as before.