



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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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 all passing the winter pretty comfortably. We had our usual Christmas gathering and all look forward hopefully to the next 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 A.B. 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 rec'd  
your letter and  
we'll soon write  
She and Annie  
& send love as  
always from  
Gladys  
John

Postage 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 <sup>and</sup> "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 trees  
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 sickness 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 ~~was~~ before my  
last summers back setting though  
I cannot walk as much as before.