



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1879-12-15

Letter from Janet Douglass [Moore] to John Muir, 1879 Dec 15.

Janet Douglass Moore

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With much love & the kindest
of wishes, I am your friend,
Janet Douglas.

Indianapolis
Indiana
December 15th, 1879.
232 S. Ala.

My dear Mr. Muir,

914
Your letter is
on the same errand as Katie's,
to introduce to you our friends
Prof. Jordan and Charles Gilbert.
Katie has perhaps given you an
enthusiastic description of Prof.
Jordan, at whose shrine we worship.

A long time ago, when we were
children, a certain young Scotsman,
one of the few who remain young,
John Muir, by name, filled the place
that is kept for heroes in little girls'
hearts. But John Muir went away
and as ten years passed by, a
great fellow, with a big heart and
a big head unconsciously worked his
way

almost into John Muir's place.

It would never do to say, quite.

Long, the girls had waited for the return of their early friend.

At length, "No cometh not," they said and opened their doors to the Professor. Now will you open the doors of your valley or of your home wherever it is and take in our friends. Mr. Gilbert is a class

mate of mine, a member of '79, a wide-awake, pleasant boy, who does not wish to be called a young gentleman. I said to one of the boys

not long ago, "Mr. Gilbert has good luck." "Well, he deserves it" was the reply. I think you will find him after your own heart, for like you, his friends are birds and flowers as well as people.

We read of your being in Alaska. Cannot you find as interesting

places on the Atlantic Coast?

I know you can find as interesting, or perhaps I should say as interested people.

We have been happy this last week to shake hands with Pres. Grant & Julia Ward Howe, but

I think if John Muir were to return, he would find, if not a milder welcome, a warmer one. Grandma has not been well this fall, but is better now. She sends her love.

The rest of us are as usual, Charles, a strapping fellow, a school-teacher, no longer the little "Prince Charley", whom you once knew, Merrill a famous law-student & as much of a scamp as ever - as for Janet - she is a "jack of all trades & master of none."