



1880-02-12

## Letter from Joanna [Muir] to John Muir, 1880 Feb 12.

Joanna Muir

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been refocused in.

Yes my health is more improved than you I can tell, and I am very very grateful.

Mother and I are all alone now Annie having gone to Phillips with Mary after her Christmas visit, but we get along nicely. Mother is well and she reads for me a great deal, and so with our little work and walking out every day, time passes very pleasantly.

The rest of the family are just about as usual, though. Dan has not been quite well lately. He proposes to go to Ark. in the Spring and will make us a visit before going. Poor Sarah is recovering herself as bravely as she can. With much love from me.

Mother sends  
much love,  
is happy to  
hear of you  
and just and  
will write  
soon. J.

Portage, Feb. 12, '80.

Dear Brother John:-

You cannot know how those letters from your own dear hand, after a long silence, have gladdened all our hearts. As the three months slipped away bringing no tidings from your "Cool white Solitudes" we were becoming quite uneasy, and although we tried to think that God would guard you from all harm as in the past, yet unpleasant pictures would at times present themselves, and make us long and long to see you seated at our own fire side.

But it is all past now, your life has been enriched, and you are still our own good kind, happy brother John, so it is all right.

I can readily see how with God's great glorious book of nature, which has become so intelligible to you, continually spread out before you and ~~which is~~ continually yielding you some grand, fresh truth, that religious denominationalism with all it carries in its train, must seem insignificant and useless; any yet, you naughty, bad boy! what could the world in general do without churches and Sunday schools?

You know that they who are not pure in heart cannot see God in his works; they see only sheep pastures and firewood, and unless the truths of God be shouted into their ears will never know Him at all until perhaps when they have slunk away into the spirit world there to find that they have never learned to live. So you must be good and not talk like that anymore, I do hope to spend more time under the blue sky than I have ever yet done and as you say - maybe before long some day eyes away yet just on some of the scenes which you