



1880-03-10

Letter from Julia M[errill] Moores to John Muir, 1880 Mar 10.

Julia Merrill Moores

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a paper for the ⁽⁴⁾ Law School Commencement
vol. comes off in April. He hopes
then to be admitted to practice in the
United States Courts. Charles is
still tugging away at the horses.
They are very slow & stupid & he
is a good deal tired - but says he has
learned more this year than in
any two years of his school life.
So the time is not wasted. I think
you will love that boy - with the
fair, earnest face. He is well &
strong - a great walker - a good
student - a happy Christian
boy - pure & simple in his
tasks. My dear friend - I am very
happy in my children. God has
been very good to me. Sister Kate
& Minnie have many kind inquiries
for you. They are only tolerably
well. Kate hurt her foot in Oct.
by springing from a carriage & has
been on crutches ever since. She is
teaching & loves it - but has to

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(13) Indianapolis March 10th 1880
232 N. Alabama St.

My Dear Mr. Muir,
I did not think
to have been so long replying to
your kind letter of the 4th of Feb.
But so it is - what I learned - I do
not - and what I learned not -
That do I! To you there could not -
I suppose - be anything more
intolerable than this life spent
in civilization! To the poor
Indian - whose untutored mind
sees God in storms & hears Him
in the wind, shall I class you
with the Indian? If so - I must
not dare call you poor - or
show toward you any sympathy.
Nor do I - your life is wonderful -
the freedom - the inquiring - &
the finding out, the glory of

rocks - mountains - streams - trees -
 Glaciers - snow & ice, no cramping
 no laws - I would almost say -
 perfect health - & such strength &
 I can scarce imagine - Ah I
 am the one to be pitied! And
 I know well enough that I have
 your sympathy, I am not so
 trammelled & bound down that
 I do not know my loss. At the
 same time - I find much comfort
 and joy - as you indeed suggest
 in my home & my children, ~~you~~
 would not have us all wandering
 hither & thither - seeking after
 know not what. There I guess
 that will do for a plunge - now
 for reasonable things.
 We were so glad - Janet & I to
 receive your delightful letters -
 we read them again & again -
 and listened to Katie - as she
 read them, she enjoyed - and

realized Alaska - the old Russian
 Possessions - of wh. I used to
 study in Geography - What guess
 notions I used to have of those
 shores - lined with greasy whale
 fisher men. Cold & ice & a stupid
 people! Well I am glad that I
 have lived to this enlightened
 age. Had it not been for
 the one civilization you could not
 have got there & back again
 in a lifetime.
 You must write to your husband - he
 is a good deal exercised first
 now over an essay wh. she is
 preparing for the 'Woman's Club' -
 on "Women in Universities in
 Europe & America". She has given the
 subject a good deal of thought &
 I think it will prove interesting. This is
 a progressive age - you know - and the
 girl women are bound to be educated.
 Merrill too - is hard at work preparing

time, I think you will like both
 him - and his companion
 our young friend, Mr. Gilbert.
 Miss Hendricks sent me once
 a full notice of your lecture
 in San Francisco. It was very
 interesting.
 And now I am writing you
 a long letter. My health is
 better, and I guess I have said
 my say. So write as often
 as you can - We are always
 glad to hear. We were delighted
 that you met and enjoyed
 Isaac Moore - in Portland.
 When are you coming home?
 I sometimes feel like writing to
 your mother. Give my love to
 her.

Truly & affectionately

Julia M. Moore