



1880-12-20

Letter from John Muir to Mary [Muir Hand], 1880 Dec 20.

John Muir

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Martinez Contra Costa County Cal.

Dec 23/80.

My dear Sister Mary.

I am so glad to know that your little man-boy is prospering so well & that he is already giving evidence of prodigious talent. Geology did you say! & botany! Well you cannot, I think I might venture to say, be quite sure as to the ologies as yet, but he will no doubt have more than ordinary talent & living in a fresh wild country he will be pretty sure to be healthy.

I am coming to see you my lassie & all those sketches

that you have been making since last I saw you, just as soon as The Good Lord will let me away from my studies & my new duties. In the meantime we expect a long visit from a relative of the family that will no doubt claim a good deal of my time, & this in addition to my writing will make it impossible to come to you this year. That exacting relative has no name as yet. I mean a baby who is to appear in a month or two. If I have forgotten to answer your husband's letter I am very sorry.

I usually answer all home letters as soon as they come to hand because they are so very numerous. I am unable to remember whether or no they receive a reply ere they are laid away. How delightful it is to think of you & Joanne so near & lovers of Nature as you both so keenly are in so wild & so beautiful a region. I only wish that I could see you both every day & give you the benefit or the burden of one of my long talks. You know that though far from fluent I always was an inveterate speaker, & I grow worse & worse as I grow

older - It must be hard for Maggie in her poor health to begin home making a fresh start far from Sarah & Mother & all of you loved ones. Still she will doubtless hope become accustomed to the change without much suffering. Away & away you all we all are flying like winged seeds & taking root far apart. Heaven bless us all & keep us close together in eternal family love. With Love's kindest regards I am ever cordially & lovingly your brother John Muir. Remember me to Mr. Hand & to Mr. Brown. I look forward with great pleasure to the time

when I shall make their acquaintance.