



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1881-01-12

Letter from Julia M[errill] Moores to [John Muir], 1881 Jan12.

Julia Merrill Moores

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it to say - that they succeeded admirably
though sometimes a little impudent.
On New Year's eve - in my brother's
parlors - a company of some thirty or forty
men assembled, the Authors read aloud
Chapters about to the Characters the
story they had written. It was
received with shouts of laughter &
applause. There was as you may
imagine a great taking down of
Merrill Moores - and some others.
But all disrespect and impudence
was forgiven & counted for naught
for we were well repaid by the
sprightliness of the story.
Here I have written you no news - The
family is well - Merrill hard at work -
Charles & Charley in College doing well -
The girls doing duty at home - or in
school - as either teachers or scholars -
and the mothers & fathers happy in
well behaved children. Give much love
to your dear wife - & believe me your
true friend Julia M. Moore's

(13)

Indianapolis Jan. 12th 1881

232 North Alabama St.

My dear friend,
Your letter of June
I answer in January.
I have often had you in my
thoughts - and you may be
sure that though I have been
glad for you in your own home
with its 'snowy linen' and
its dear mistle - I have not
felt any anxiety about you.
I have thought of you as comfort-
able & so happy that you
did not need my inter-
meddling. But we are still
friends - and I think that as
Dr. Johnson says - 'Any friend-
ship needs repairs.' And
what repairs are better than
what can be done by letter-writing?

I was wonderfully amused by your late letter to Janet - on the Alaska question. She was half inclined to resent your teasing - but laughed - & relapsed - let me see the letter - but kept it close hidden from her Brothers - lest they should harp on the same string.

She likes young Gilbert as a class mate - but that is all. Her object in asking you about Alaska - I must tell you.

You are well aware that our young people among the hills and kin far outnumber the older ones. They are growing & growing and are quite important.

Add to the kindred - the young people of the Fourth Church - and amongst them there are many follities and much fuss.

The parson's son and Janet wanted to get up something new and rare for the Holidays - so in September last - they set themselves the arduous task of writing a novel, a tale - entitled "The Cousins" - with the motto - "A Chiefs among ye tak in' notes".

A grand secret it was - and a grander taking off of the tribe of Memiles - and the other young people of the Church. They were around all fall, listening and noting down all that was said - and no one the wiser.

As the story runs they send off our boys - some eight in number to Alaska - where they travel - & meet Prof. John Muir - with a party. - The letters wh. these boys wrote home - were full of information. I smuggled from four published letters from Alaska! I should like you if I began to give you an outline of the story - so far bear. Suffice