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Letter from E[mily] O. P[elton] to John Muir, 1881 Feb 26.

Emily O. Pelton

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194.

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and his wife are teaching and
this winter they are assisted by
a sister. There is a new music
teacher here now, a Miss Hanna
from San Francisco.

Mrs Knox often speaks of you
and the lecture you promised
the institute when it was started.

Will we ever see you up this
way again think you? Mrs. Knox
would give you and your wife a
warm welcome were you to come.

Mrs Phelps is putting up a store
here and will move up in April.

Cousin Jessie is at home studying
painting and music.

Keeping to hear from you soon
I am as ever your friend and sister, E. P.

11

Brownsville, Cuba Co

Feb 26th 1881 Cal.

Dear brother John.

Are you
wondering what has become
of your mountain friends and
if they are washed down into
the plains? Maybe you have
been looking for some of us
to float past on our way to the
sea. Brownsville has kept
its head out of water some of
the time, tho' it gets a washing
now and then. Just think
what a big one it got that
Thursday before the high water
on the plains. I never saw
so much water here as on that
day. No doubt you are wondering

which I have spent the time since that ten minutes visit you made me in Oakland and why I passed by so silently after promising - or partly so! to make you a call on my way up here.

I took a wretched cold the week I came away and felt too miserable to visit with strangers, and so came direct to Marysville where I stayed a week feeling too sick to go anywhere.

Then, Mr Knox's team coming down I came here, where I have been since December excepting a brief visit to Strawberry and Forbestown.

The roads have been so rough and watery I have not made the visit to Chico that I intended to make long

ago, but may go over there in March if the weather permits. I had a delightful little letter from Mrs Bidwell this winter in which she made many inquiries about you. I have not answered it yet. I had sent her a few flowers and sea mosses which she felt compelled, I suppose to acknowledge.

I am going to spend the summer in Strawberry Valley if the heat does not drive me away. I have taken the school there and will be with my old friends the Drakes, beginning school in April, near the first if the weather permits.

The school here is in quite a flourishing condition, nineteen pupils boarding and some forty -

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Feb. 26th, 1881.

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Your friend and sister,

E[mily] O. P[elton]