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Letter from [Joanna Muir Brown] to [John Muir], 1882 Mar 24.

Joanna Muir Brown

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to do work very nicely, she used to be a slave and talks about "My Misses in Tennessee"

Jefferson is just twenty four miles southeast of Little Rock and sixteen mi. north of Pine Bluff, when Mr. came here there was only one little white house, and a large open dancing and preaching hall and refreshment stand which the R. R. Co. had arranged for excursionists who come it is said on every train during the warm season, because of the beauty and healthfulness of the place, there are now six little houses on one St. two on another, a boarding house and store the negro quarters and mill besides many other houses just

Father talks of writing to you and I think he intends to soon

Mother says that he and I shall visit you and yours and the beautiful Yosemite as soon as he can afford the time and money to do so I think it would make me glad soul and body. I will pray that you will be many years.

Jefferson,
Jefferson Co. Ark.
March 24. 1882

Dear John:-

I have just been looking at your picture and wishing that you could take a ramble with me this morning all about our new home and have a long long long talk together instead of being obliged to take my pen again, I suppose I ought to have written before for we have been in Ark. two months now and you said you would be anxious to hear from us, but I never felt so little like writing, since coming here we have had some of the most

magnificent weather I ever experienced; such a clear, balmy, exhilarating air, as to make one feel that each inhalation brings added vigour and health, also a great deal of rainy weather, indeed we came just about the beginning of the wet season for they have very little snow and a great deal of rain in winter which has hindered Watters business very considerably, another year he says it will not trouble him much as he will be all ready for it and have plenty of timber on hand for the mill, He is laying tram roads all through the woods and will soon have a little engine to draw the log cars instead of oxen as

he has now. He has only about thirty men employed at present but will have more as the business increases. The pine timber is excellent and abundant, I like to go out and look up at the great, tall, straight, pinky colored trunks, they seem so grand, In speaking of the men employed I meant to say that Watter brought only the mill foreman and woods foreman from the north all the rest are southern men, a few colored ones, but most of the negroes are shamefully lazy, We have had our meals sent over from the boarding house thus far but I am going to have a spunky little mulatto woman do my work pretty soon, she knows how