



1882-05-30

## Letter from [Joanna Muir Brown] to John Muir, 1882 May 30.

Joanna Muir Brown

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all you say is certainly true but certain it is that however distorted his views of a true Christian life have been and however much unhappiness they may have caused, his friends, he is in his own way sincere and one day he will awake to see the truth in all its grandeur, in all its purity.

You enquire of Mother's affairs - I think you know that Father decided to her the brick house which she saw fit to sell for \$1,200 and rent a smaller and cozier one. according to her has the interest on this money, the uncertain rent of the two small

Jefferson Ark.  
May 30. '82.

Dear John:-

Your letter concerning Father was duly recd and your later one came yesterday. Before writing you again I have been waiting to see the result of a little plan of matters. I think I told you before that Father had hoped to work among the colored people here and had not found the opportunity such as he expected, and I thinking that something in this direction was the

only thing that could keep <sup>him</sup> Father with us, Dr. concluded to build a little house that would do for him to speak in and try to get enough together to immortal him, for you know he never was very fastidious about numbers, but I fear his trouble will be fruitless for on being told what the building was for Father almost impatiently declared that it was of no use to try to keep him for it was now evident to him that the Lord never intended him to work here and it would be ~~useless~~, useless for him to go into the battle alone. He is

so different from any other mortal man I ever knew that it seems just impossible to have the least influence with him when he once makes up his mind. He however says that he will remain here until August when some note of his becomes due, this was his overproposition and we were only too glad to have him stay as long as he would, hoping that in the meantime some thing might occur to alter his mind. Poor old Father, it is useless to feel vexed with his absurd notions of duty for they run a part of himself and must be made the best of, though

interested in your account  
of the fruit and work  
it must be in small cases.

Father sends love  
to you, he read your  
letter and read it several  
times but did not make  
any remarks about it.

Mother also sends kindest  
regards. Write again -  
Your letters do me good  
as they always have in  
days that are past.

The flowers are for  
our youngest Annie.

Affectionately  
Joanna.

I would like  
to know your  
opinion of the  
Chinese, are  
they a benefit  
to the country  
or the reverse.

houses of Father's of which  
I spoke and her semi-  
annual payments from  
Scotland, with this small  
income, in her own quiet  
way she seems always  
to have everything she  
wants for in Portage  
one can live as inexpens-  
ively as any where I know.

Now for a talk  
about flowers, Have you  
the magnolia tree in Cal,  
and if not have you ever  
seen it? It grows here  
and I can hardly tell  
you what an impression  
it made on me, the first  
blossom I saw sent a



thrill all over me, and oh! how I did want the home folks to see it, we are going to have some set out in our yards.

Yesterday Walter brought me a vine of the sensitive plant, I suppose you are acquainted with it. The blossom is the color of the thistle, we find a great many new flowers here and I am going to get a collection of Art. flowers, partly because I know Mary will be so interested in seeing them when I go home.

Yes I am sure you would enjoy a visit here and there is no one trying to tell how

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happy we would be to see you, I hope when the time comes it will be so that Louie and your dear little girl can come too, we would all be so glad to see them.

I have always intended to ask the name of the flower which formed the center of Louie's bouquet which was sent to Mother with the wedding cake. It is late in the day to ask now but the magnolia blossom reminded me of it though so much larger.

It must indeed seem quite novel to you to be employed as you now are, we were quite