



1882-12-17

## Letter from D[avid ] G[ilrye] Muir to John Muir [et. al. ], 1882 Dec 17.

David Gilrye Muir

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### Recommended Citation

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Postage Nov Dec 12/82

Maggie Sarah Louie & John <sup>up before last,</sup>  
Dear sisters & brother

I have long intended to write to you but a convenient time never seems to come, Katie says I must write today or never so that explains my position. I have to write eight or ten letters nearly every day & it seems as though I could not find time for my foreign correspondence. We are very busy in the store at present, lots of business, folks are all well, as usual as far as I know Katie is about as usual. Children all quite well. I am better than I've been for years, weight 150 lbs. week before last I thought you were well off in escaping the cold weather, 18 to 24 below zero, had to get up in the night & stir up the fires in two stoves & pile in the fuel to keep everything in the house from freezing, and we have had hard winter weather ever since, we have a good deal of snow six or eight inches but not good slipping, we were glad to receive letters from you Maggie Sarah and the thought of your climbing mountains & getting flowers maintaining <sup>the</sup> orange & trees also blossoms made us think less of home & sigh for ability & means to fly south with <sup>the</sup> birds at the approach of Jack Frost.

(25)  
but saying we cant, perhaps it would be  
better for us not to know of any better  
<sup>(When ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise)</sup>  
Christmas. John do you remember our  
bedroom at Hickory Hill? on the north  
side - never a fire nor sun - window  
none too tight - three in a bed, dan in the  
middle. the quilts all frozen about our faces  
in the morning & how awful cold it was  
to get up in the morning & throw & go  
down to the kitchen barefooted ooo-o-o-o  
It makes me shiver & think of it. And going  
to Postage with loads of corn - running  
behind the wagon to keep warm & having  
to eat frozen bread for our lunch, I dont  
want & have not had any of that kind  
of diet since. perhaps recalling some of those cold  
memories may make us more thankful for  
present comforts. It does me. Sarah I  
have seen David quite a number of times since you  
left. he looks well & I believe he is glad  
you are having such a grand change so  
dont hurry back on his account. Maggie I  
have heard from Jack twice lately  
but all on business, - did not say  
whether he was homesome or not.  
Christmas is almost here again & we go to Mother  
as of Yore, perhaps this will be the smallest  
Christmas gathering we have ever had. it  
tends to grow smaller & Mother seems  
to feel it keenly & still she never  
complains much. She is very well this winter  
so far, has very comfortable quarters & has  
not very much to do. She reads  
a good deal & is always glad  
to see any of her own folks.  
(31)  
Perry was elected to the State Senate last fall  
so I will be kept close at home all  
winter. his health is poor,



Dresso I saw Dan Galloway to-day & he looks  
well. Sarah don't hurry home on his  
acc. he wants you to stay as long as  
you want to. & still he keeps insisting  
that it is passing strange that you can  
be happy when he is so miserable  
but don't mind him. I'll write him &  
make him ashamed of himself. If  
you come home sooner than you  
inclined he will blame yourself.  
It has rained for the last 36 hours  
& now it has turned to snow.  
When Sister Cliff pans out I'm going  
to Cal. I think I would prefer to go  
there than to Scotland. I'm not sure  
you coming home? - don't come  
in the winter - I would like to see you  
if you have passed the recognition  
of your sister I'm afraid a  
few more years & your  
brothers would not know you  
If it was not so busy a time  
I would write you a long letter  
~~but~~ So excuse me, Wishing you a Merry  
Christmas & a happy New Year, and  
all of my best wishes I remain  
Yours Very Affectionately  
D. G. Miller

P.S

Sister Louie I hope you will come to  
 visit some time I should like to get  
 acquainted with you, don't judge  
 of the Muir family by the specimens you  
 have seen. D.G. Muir

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