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Letter from John Muir to Sarah Muir Galloway, 1860 Oct

John Muir

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body that ^{likes} it as
well as me & know you
pray for me. Sarah and
it is a comforting piece
of knowledge I hope you
are all fine and well
David I would have wrote
to both you and Sarah
before now had I had
opportunity - I spent nearly
all forenoon at Mrs Mitchell
she and the children are
pretty well Mr Mitchell
expects to be home about
the middle of November
his health is quite poor
fever and Ague I guess
you had not better
answer this till I write
again ~~after~~ I settle
Goodbye David and you
Sarah and Anna and
George God bless you

00240

[17]

[Oct. 1860]

Dear Sarah I am in Madison
tomorrow morning & suppose
I shall seat myself in Mr
Woods Ice Boat to be furled
to Pt du Chien Mr Wood
is an old machinist - I am
to have access to his books
and tools I have had many
other offers but stern
looking Mr Wood is my
choice I am at all able
to lay down any particular
plan for myself while
at the mercy of so many
chances and influences
I might say that I mean
to stay a month or two with
this man and then steer
eastward I hope he is
not a Catholic I noticed a
crop on his droll looking
boat - I'm not bound.

But Sarah I am now adrift
 on this big spinning world
 and I don't know how
 I feel jumping out of
 the woods I was at once
 led and pushed and
 whirled and tossed about
 by new everything every-
 where For three or four
 days my eyes at least
 were pleased and teased
 and relieved with pictures
 and sewing machines and
 squashes and keapers and
 quilts and chairs and
 apples and flowers and
 soldiers and firemen and
 thousands of all kinds of
 faces all of them strange
 but two / my health how
 ever is good as good I
 think or better than it was
 at home I have many

friends here at least all
 seem to wish me well
 I board with a very good
 and respectable family
 Barnell is their name
 Little Harry Barnell and
 myself are the only persons
 in the house the rest
 are up town some where ^{tonight} Mrs
 Barnell is at a prayer meeting
 I expected to start for P. M.
 O'Brien this afternoon as I
 bade Mrs Barnell goodbye
 she took my hand and
 looked as she might cry
 and said "I hope you shall
 succeed and have good
 health goodbye and
 God bless you" There is
 Sarah a flood of praise
 poured on me from nearly
 every body here you know
 how dangerous it is for ~~me~~