



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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Letter from Harvey Reid to John Muir, 1861 Jul 28

Harvey Reid

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sides, their gaping and ghastly wounds telling of the fearful horrors of warfare. Why do Christian people resort to such terrible means of settling disputes? This is called by some a holy war but to my mind there is little of holiness in sending thousands of unprepared souls to eternity through the bloody gates of a Sabbath-fought Battle.

I am sorry for the failure of your Patent scheme; but do not think that invention would have realized very large profits. Yankees are lazy, you know, and like to lie abed o' mornings. But you will succeed better next time. I thank you sincerely friend Miner for the interest you take in my welfare and may perhaps some day be what I ought to be with what I am convinced you truly are - a Christian. A pious mother's prayers has long been offered for her erring son. I send your Geometry by the same mail with this.

Ever your friend J. Reed

Union Grove, Wis
July 28th 1861.

Dear Friend Miner:—

On returning home from work last evening I found your welcome letter awaiting me;—for I have engaged to a farmer here to work through haying and harvest— I was much gratified in its perusal and hope that the accidental theft of a Geometry may be the occasion of continued correspondence between us. I can appreciate your feelings of pleasure on arriving

home from your long absence, for it was, also, my first experience away from friends and relatives, and home never seemed brighter and more pleasant than since my return.

Although I probably shall not be able to attend "the stone school-house" next term I intend to continue most of my studies during the long vacation which I will take. I have the advantage of a good teacher in the person of a young Presbyterian minister who is now boarding with us. He has lately at Union College, New York and has kindly offered to assist me in whatever studies I may wish to

undertake.

The sad news of the late defeat of the U. S. forces in Virginia is more sad to the people of this neighborhood because many of them have sons and brothers in the routed army, but fortunately no one of the boys from our town has been killed, and but one slightly injured. I have received letters from some of my acquaintances there since the skirmish of Sunday before the great battle on Sunday. They had become somewhat acquainted with the music of whistling bullets and describe the horrible sensations produced by the sight of men falling by their