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1861-12-29

Letter from Harvey Reid to John Muir, 1861 Dec 29

Harvey Reid

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see Madison again. My parents
and family moved two weeks
ago to Carroll Co. Northern
Illinois, where I shall join them
in the spring, and I shall
probably not have an opportunity
of attending school again.

but I hope to still keep
up acquaintance there by a
correspondence with you.

Write and let me know how
you like your new occupation,
and whether you have achieved
any new triumph in mechanics
lately.

Ever your friend

Harvey Reid

Union Grove, Dec. 29th 1861

Dear Friend John Main:-

It was
with the greatest pleasure that I
received and perused your letter, it
being the first account I had heard
from the "stone school-house" since
I left it last summer. I had
not known before that I had
such an affection for those well-
remembered scenes and gentlemanly
school mates. I am very glad to
hear of the promotion of Capt.
Norcross. Although I had
not the pleasure of an acquaintance
with him, I formed a high
opinion of him from my own
observation and the praises of his
classmates. Such, too, merits
by his really superior talents
a high position in whatever

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enterprise he may undertake.

I have often thought with pleasure and profit of the fragments of Doc. Carr's lectures which I heard last term, and can imagine the benefit and satisfaction you must have derived from the whole course. Your determination to engage in that noble occupation, training the young, immortal mind to intellectual vigor and moral excellence, is, I think, a good one. Not only will it be of benefit to yourself in giving you a thorough review of the common English branches; but the profession of teaching needs your kindness of heart, depth of principle, and courage in the right, to aid in making the youth of our country what a free people ought to be. But, while I see clearly what a teacher ought

to be, I am obliged to confess that I fall far short of the standard. I am teaching this winter a school of about 30 scholars, 6 miles from home. It is a very good school - many large scholars - and they all seem to exhibit a sincere desire for improvement. I hope I may be able to perform my whole duty towards them.

Wm. Fuller is also teaching this winter - He is still the "same old sixpence". He has had several paying jobs of painting this fall, among which was the painting and graining of a new Methodist Church in our village.

Goldworthy has been attending the High School in Racine. The term closed last week.

I don't suppose I shall ever