



1862-02-09

Letter from John Muir to Sarah Muir Galloway and David Galloway, 1862 Feb 9

John Muir

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Sept 9th [4]

The singing is good now
 ask for Oak hall which is about
 10 miles from Madison South then
 ask for Dr. Keeby's district, or if
 you don't wish to come to school
 I will be in Madison any day you
 set You had better come to school
 this And I will give you a lecture
 & lecture every Saturday evening
 on Christianity or Prat-Philosophy
 sometimes to sixty or seventy
 You know it does not require
 much experience to be a district
 school philosopher I've haant
 visited my school nor I his
 But I saw him once and he
 said he was infinitely happy
 among his generous church, he has
 singing schools and sabbath schools
 and writing schools I hope Maggie
 & John are happy and the wee body
 May you all be always blest
 Goodly John Minn

[13]

Feb. 9, 1862

Dear Sarah
 I got your letter a good long
 while ago but I have been
 so busy I have hardly known
 where I was (Mother wrote me
 that you were all pretty well
 I am well as usual, the usual
 blessings attending district school
 teaching do not seem to yield
 the rigorous consequences which
 I had anticipated The Monday
 morning that I commenced I
 did not know where to look nor
 what to say nor what to do
 and I'm sure looked as bashful
 as any maid, A maid turtle upside
 down on a velvet sofa was as much
 at home I heard a scholar declare
 that the teacher didn't seem to
 know bran, but all moves with
 regularity and ease now I couldn't
 get my clocks out with me at first

and as I had not a watch I
 set to work and made a clock to
 keep time until I had an opportunity
 of getting my other one from Madison
 It cost about two hours work and
 kept time by water passing in a fine
 jet through a three cent piece.
 I have a big wheel set on the wall
 which tells the different classes
 when and how long to recite
 And a machine too for making
 me a fire in the morning at
 any hour I please. So that when
 I go to the old log schoolhouse
 these cold biting mornings I
 find every thing warmed and
 a good fire. I sometimes think
 of a "fixin'" to beat the boys ears
 for at first the cry of "He dont
 half whip" came loud and angry
 from all parts of my parish. And
 indeed I did think it an awful

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thing to keep the little chaps
 even though so many did give praise
 in rich abundance at times of being
 brought to the end of the toes
 My voice would shake for hours
 after each page's applications
 but now thy cause gives little
 agitation of conscience of soul
 My scholars however nearly all
 mean to behave themselves
 they are neither good nor bad
 certainly not such children
 as Pollock speaks of as good
 and gentle as to seem as "wide
 entire of beams of angels eyes"
 Sarah how would you like
 to have a new home every five
 or six days I often wish I could
 come home among you all a day
 or two but by the bye you told
 Mrs Parkins that you was coming
 down some day I hope you will