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1862-03-27

Letter from John Muir to Frances N. Pelton, 1862 Mar 27

John Muir

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4) but though these shall have
a place in my heart they
can never take yours.

[The picture referred to below was in fine pencil work
decorated with a margin of leaves in each of which was written
"True friends never die". The picture (about 18x24) was
eventually stolen among other effects from E. W. Pelton.]

You wished to have some marking
to appear in my picture, this could
not easily be, so I took a drawing
of my desk which I shall send you
soon. There is writing under that
paper which belongs only to you;
perhaps it is not in a proper
place; if you think so it may
be cut out.

Fannie's picture was too dark and
indistinct to photograph but I got
a good aquenotype from it as
also from the picture with yourself,
both of which are above price to me
I have seen Mrs Stoner since I returned
she evinces great interest in all that
relates to you.

I feel truly obliged to Mr Pelton for writing
and am thankful to Mrs Newton and
all the rest for their kindness
Remember me to all Goodbye in Christian love
J. Muir

John Muir 8 st. K
sh. 17 ✓
Mar 27/62 Thursday
To Mrs P.

Dear Mrs Pelton, I often think
I feel your fevered brow, and
wish my self man to bathe it,
I still hear your difficult breathing,
and read the distresses you cannot
speak, and though your dearest
friends long accustomed to soothe
the pains of sickness are at hand
with all the care of their love
and natural affection, I nevertheless
long and ache to be near you
with an intensity which I cannot
describe.

Mingled with your afflictions you
doubtless have many of those precious
blessings bestowed to the sick,
and feel that as your troubles
increase so also do your consolations
from God. You realize the
presence and unequalled tenderness
of that One who above all others

well deserves the name of Friend,
 now consoling that the blessed
 Saviour is our Shepherd - that
 having sought us while wanderers
 from his fold and washed away
 our sins, he now is with us by
 day and night - that he knows
 the measure of our griefs and
 every need; and that with his
 power and sympathy and
unchangeable love he will tend
 us here, and in due time take
 us to the mansions prepared in
 heaven. But you are easily
 grieved and I will not write
 much. Since Jesus love you
 all must be well.

The birds of summer begun to
 visit us; and from the cold earth
 shewed ^{with} death and corruption
 numberless forms, living and beautiful,
 shall in a few days appear, do you
 after passing with resignation

to the same tomb shall be called
 forth by the same power clad in
 immortality not again to fade as
 as a leaf, but with the God whom
 you love and other dear ones, to
 dwell where death and sin is
 not.

I treasure your motherly advice, and
 should I live long after you depart,
 I shall often remember you as
 present and seek for your sake
 to do whatever of difficult or easy
 duty is meted for me with increased
 elasticity. I will repeat the
 expression of my Gratitude for your
 genuine kindness to me when timid
 and inexperienced I first felt the
 skill countenances of so many
 strangers; Time nor future reverses
 or sneers shall ever efface that
 early mark from my heart -
 True - others have Christian benevolence
 whom I hope to find and love.