



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1862-05-18

## Letter from Sarah Muir Galloway to John Muir, 1862 May 18

Sarah Muir Galloway

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My Dear Brother John as Sarah wants me to write to you I will  
more for form than anything else try if I can scrawl over the page  
I feel is no great honour to day, I was in ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> tags yesterday  
and most of the way home it rained like "sissy" and at night  
when "tired natures sweet restorer" should have embraced me  
I was wrestling with the toothache; I have had a very busy  
spring; one month from the time I commenced to sow & ~~to~~  
all my corn planted, the fact is John I have barely time to  
keep track of passing events, & my very intellect is dazed.

But "never despair," "hope always" "eye of little faith" and  
a good many such curative pills are administered occasionally  
to convince me that I have already reached the "earthly canon"  
so that I am just getting into that quietest state ~~now~~  
to look upon the "thousand ills that flesh is heir to"  
as a something to ~~look for~~ expect. Life seems to  
be made up of "crop purposes" you see it daily in a  
political view, you realize it within yourself every  
hour, an eager yearning after something, which when  
attained, you are disappointed, and grasp at something  
else and so on it will be I suppose till we "shuffle off  
this mortal coil." John may we be ready for <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~  
and endeavour to act our part well while here,  
knowing that there is a rest for all who are found  
worthy to enter into it. I rejoice with you John that  
you are happy, & more comfortable than you used to  
as I cannot call this a letter I cannot call on  
you to return an answer, but trust to your generosity  
& benevolence to write us soon & possibly the pump  
side will be uppermost with me when I write or  
- gain trusting you are in good health & remains as ever  
your affectionate Brother David C. Calhoun

[13] Fountain Lake

C-

My Dear Brother I dare say you will  
think we have not received your letter  
but we have and right <sup>glad</sup> I was to see it  
I am glad your health is so good I hope  
it will continue so, I was very sorry indeed  
when I heard of your wearisome journey  
and you must be pretty stout to be able to  
bear so much, you give us a fine  
description of your room I should like  
very much to pop in some time and peep  
over your shoulder before you knew  
David gave me a description of your desk  
legs it must look very cunning I think  
I would like to see it I would like a  
little bit of supper with you too you  
seem to live so well now, I have not seen  
Maggie since I saw her with you I expect  
to see her very soon now, we will have just got  
the crops in I heard to day she is gaining  
strength to take Annie is fine thriving well.  
David saw Mother yesterday she is not very

stout she is wearying for a letter from you  
 she says she has not had a word since you left  
 to write her John I let David M<sup>r</sup> your letter  
 to read when he was over he read along finely  
 till he come to "Rate and Cash" And then  
 you should have seen his face, he thought  
 himself it was a good hit, Twenty four  
 John I am more than that ~~and how has~~  
 so much time been spent I am afraid we  
 could give in but a poor account and Time is  
 worth so much more than we act as if we knew  
 "Millions of Money for an inch of Time" was the  
 exclamation of Queen Elizabeth as she lay  
 on her dying bed, how many inches have we  
 wasted O John how carefull should we be of  
 how we spend our Time, I sent you two  
 Papers did you get them, Anna & George is well  
 and so is David but I have been very sick  
 for a good while now I keep much about the same  
 yet David has brought me home a little Keg  
 of Beer, now dont laugh John but tell me if you  
 think it will do me any good  
 how beautiful it will look around your fine

Lake now with all the grass and trees and things  
 budding out so fresh and green, who can look  
 at them and not think of Adam who made them  
 all, or see their order and beauty and say they  
 came there by chance, the closer you examine  
 them the more perfect they seem while on  
 the other hand the more you examine the works  
 of man the coarser they show. How is your  
 Prickly Pear growing, a few days after you went  
 away I noticed eight or nine little ones on mine  
 they grew very quick till there were some of them  
<sup>and only about half an inch long</sup>  
 three or four inches long) I think they grew  
 so quick on account of being up by the side of  
 the Chimney) I then took them down to make  
 them harder and the big ones that had  
 them on begun to fall off and the others too  
 till instead of all you clusters around the  
 original ones there is only two on one and one  
 on the other but there is some fine ones  
 growing on them David is going to write a paper  
 now and may you be happy happy happy  
 write soon John  
 I like a letter from you  
 May God bless you John  
 Sarah  
 here is some more  
 of my scraps