



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1863-02-01

## Letter from Margaret Muir Reid to John Muir, 1863 Feb

Margaret Muir Reid

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round Mrs. Knapp has been  
very sick this winter and  
several physicians have tried of  
that throat disease, and  
we so late that when death  
comes we will be ready

fight on fight on till death  
shall bring thee to thy God  
He'll take thee at thy parting  
To His divine abode

I am coming to see you  
when ever I am able, but  
expect to see you first  
Good bye Dear

Your affectionate sister  
Mary

493 Dear John [Feb. 1863]

I feel as if  
I had fairly got out of  
the way of writing letters  
I hardly know how to  
commence It is too late  
now to write it, I don't know how to  
excuse <sup>for being so long</sup> my <sup>inactivity</sup> delay  
till the old story, I am  
slowly gaining strength after  
the awful event which took  
place two weeks ago I am  
cosily sitting in my most  
comfortable room and the  
little fat thing sleeping in  
the bed. You sent me a  
wonderful long yellow letter  
I was in bed when it arrived  
John came stalking in with  
what I thought a handful  
of shavings I wondered  
what he meant when the fire  
was burning well enough  
when behold he was walking right  
past the stove and handing it to  
me said it was John's letter

00319

a wonderful letter sure enough  
12 yds long. when I say it  
to my old they stare. I am  
glad you are so well and happy  
I dreamed I was down at  
Madison with you and was  
laughing and talking with you  
and felt well too as I was  
just telling you to come and  
show me your funny things  
when I awake. Latke has  
arrived from the creek there has  
been a great many revival  
meetings held there. Later, there  
has been a few at friends  
and a good many at church  
I hope much good may be done  
that will be permanent  
The girls and Din were up at  
the new year vacation and  
was here on New years day  
did you spend it. Great  
2 or 3 days with me since I  
into another was up a while  
the was very very thin I  
you heard of father getting

much what learned. He has  
also had the misfortune to  
freeze down and falling out  
luggage has got a black eye and  
a sore side. He has bought  
a house in portage the girls  
dont like it they will have to  
walk about a mile to school  
that dont look much like  
coming back to the farm. He  
lost sight of a book job. borrow  
from Linden Graham the name  
of it was a treatise on the  
catechism. It had the same  
name on the boards as the one  
you sent to New York for. Can  
Will you please to send the address  
and if you see the name of  
the book in your catalogue  
see what the price is. I want  
to send for one. There is a  
scotch piece of paper. Tell me  
what you think of it. I dont  
know of anything new. He has  
been a very nice. He has  
been a good deal of sickness

[Buffalo, Wis., Feb., 1863].

Dear John,

I feel as if I had fairly got out of the way of writing letters. I hardly know how to commence. It is too bad, isn't it? I don't know how to excuse myself for being so long in writing, unless I just tell the old story. I am slowly gaining strength after the awful event which took place two weeks ago. I am cosily sitting in my own comfortable room, and the little fat thing [is] sleeping in the bed. You sent me a wonderful long yellow letter. I was in bed when it arrived. John came stalking in with what I thought a handful of shavings. I wondered what he meant, when the fire was burning well enough, when behold! he walking right past the stove and handing it to me, said it was John's letter -- a wonderful letter, sure enough, 12 yards long. When I say so to anyone they stare.

I am glad you are so well and happy. I dreamed I was down at Madison with you and was laughing and talking and felt well too, and I was just telling you to come and show me your funny things, when I awoke.

Father has just arrived from the creek. There have been a great many revival meetings held there lately. There have been a few at French's mill, and a good many at Montello. I hope much good may be done that will be permanent. The girls and Dan were up at the New Year's vacation, and Sarah was here on New Year's day. How did you spend it? Sarah stayed 4 or 5 days with me since I was sick. Mother was up a while too. She is very, very thin. I suppose you heard of father's getting so much wheat burned. He has also had the misfortune to have broken down and fallen out [of] the buggy -- has got a black eye and a sore side. He has bought a house in Portage. The girls don't like it. They will have to walk about a mile to school -- that don't look much like coming back to the farm?

We have lost sight of a book John borrowed from <sup>u</sup>Lowden Graham. The name of it was Anecdotes on the (Shorter) Catechism. It had the same name on the boards as the ones you sent to New York for - Carter. Will you please to send the address and if you see the name of the book in your catalogue see what the price is? I want to send for one. Here is a Scotch piece of poetry -- tell me what you think of it. I don't hear of anything new.

This has been a very mild winter. There has been a good deal of sickness round. Mrs. Cripps has been very sick this winter, and several children have died of that throat disease. May we so live that when death comes we will be ready.

Fight on, fight on till death  
Shall bring thee to thy God.  
He'll take thee at thy parting breath  
To His divine abode.

I am coming to see you whenever I am able, but I expect to see you first. Goodbye,  
From your affectionate sister,

Margaret [Reid]

*High  
epidemic  
1863*