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Letter from John Muir to Alfred Bradley Brown, 1864 Jan 17

John Muir

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[Original in possession of Mr. A. B. Brown, Alexandria, S. Dak.]

Fountain Lake, [Wis.] January 17, 1864.

Dear Friend Brad:

Please excuse me for not having written sooner. I wish you "a happy New Year" and, Bradly, I do really mean it. I fondly hope that you are well. I am living quietly at home and am too apt to forget you, who are so much exposed to danger and disease besides that feeling of lone sadness when you remember the comforts of a true home. I hope that when you grow weary and heart-sick you will comfort yourself with the reflection that you have a kind mother and brothers and other friends, who think of you though far away in the din of war and ardently wish to see the day of peace, when at last you will return to them kindly preserved by Providence from every ill.

I saw your Mother last night. She told me that you were well. Your Mother is well, and so is Will and that roguish looking Danny. When I pass the seat of the old academy I think of the funny times we had.

I suppose you have already heard of the long mile that Dave has marched on his life's journey by marrying his teacher, Kate. They seem to keep house very pleasantly together at Portage. I know that David would be delighted to see you again.

There is no particular news to send. I am living with my brother-in-law this winter. Mr. Hamilton is very sick. Many children have died of diphtheria.

I will bid you goodbye, Bradly, hoping that you enjoy the presence of the "friend that's ever near." May you always be blessed and protected by your Heavenly Father.

Truly your friend,

[John] Muir.

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