



1865-11-12

Letter from John Muir to Emily O. Pelton, 1865 Nov 12

John Muir

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is indeed a beautiful moss, and in
springy woods covers old prostrate
trees in an uncommon web of
greenness. No 2 grows in wet
and swampy places & frequently bank
to my waist in beds of it - When lost in
that horrid Canadian swamp a year ago
You ask Emily when I am going to
return to the States - I think likely next
Autumn or fall - I only then complete
my studies at the university - it seems
as though I could not be contented with the
little education I now have. You seem
to think that Nature has designed me for
an inventor - well, strange to say, when your
letter came I had just completed a bargain
with my employers to invent a set of
new machines for the paper factory and
also to manufacture a thousand doz
of books - it seems as though I should
be dragged into machinery whether I
wished or no - for the last three or four
months I have been inventing machinery
about 14 hours per day. But - Goodbye

My earnest regards to all my friends especially

Trout-Mills Nov 12th 1845

Dear friend Emily.
I sincerely beg pardon for my gross
carelessness in not writing sooner to
ascertain whether or no you had
quite recovered from your severe
cold, I fondly hope that you have
and that now nothing remains to
remind you of your long interesting
journey. Even the deep flowing
happyness which your visit to
early friends and old home scenes
was sure to awaken, I am
really glad that you told me
how you were, your former lack
of Egotism is hardly more pardonable
than my tardiness in writing when
I knew you to be sick, but I thought
I had better wait - until you should have
returned home, I then became busy

almost to-craziness and neglected
you till now -
I suppose that you are now at
home in the Moyelle block among
your friends, have you seen
or heard from Mrs Goodrich since
you return, I would like to-hear how
she is, I wrote her a letter shortly after
receiving your last in care of Mr Pelton
thinking that he would know when she
then was, how much I should enjoy
a visit amongst you all - it begins to
seem long indeed since I was at the Pt -
when upon my first botanical walks,
has winter reached you yet - it has
come down into our hollow and nipped
many of the fall plants - ere they had time
granted to-mature their seed, and while
many of the beeches and Maples had
but just begun to show the mellow
tintings of Autumn, I have not botan-
ized so much as usual this season
I had one ramble among the rocks in
the vicinity - of Owen Sound I send you

a section of a fruited frond of a rare
fern which is abundant in the wet
limestone rocks there - it is known in
but one or two localities in the States
I shall give you a perfect specimen some
day if you have not one already, there
is another fern somewhat-rare from
the same place - *Camptosorus* ~~sp. n.~~ *sp. n.*
I would take pleasure in showing you
my collection of ferns the eyes are so
few that appreciate such beauties,
I send you a few *Mosses* I only began
their analysis this fall and these
are some of my first specimens many
of them are imperfect - in some cases
the male flower is wanting still I fancy
you they cost me much labor as my lens
was of so low a power that I could scarcely
see the teeth of the peristome in some
species, much less count & examine them
perhaps you are already possessed of far
better specimens. *Asplenium* hangs in large
loose patches from nearly every birch &
Maple in our woods, *Hypnum* No 1