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1866-02-24

## Letter from Daniel Muir to John Muir, 1866 Feb 24

Daniel Muir

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Town of Buffalo 24 Feb 1866

Dear John

I have been longer of answering your letter about the description of Canada & the account of your contract for Drake making than I thought I would. I wished to see that god had led me to the best place when he brought to his cousin. I suppose you will be well through with your Drake concern by this time, what are you going to do next, are you going to continue at that kind of business or what. And how is your soul thriving in so much confusion, see that it is not like the wheat amongst the thorns for if so, there will be nothing but straw when the harvest comes, you know religion ought to be the first thing in home for if it is not, your worldly things will be without a blessing & profitless, for what will it profit a man if he should gain the whole world if he lose his own soul, what can a man give in exchange for his soul. Gods words are all true & therefore cannot fail. If the Kingdom of Heaven is the first thing as regards importance why should you not think most about the things above & I fear you do not. It appears to me that you think more on the things of this world, now if you knew just how long you were going to live in this world you might divide your time so as to give the two worlds what portion you might judge best, that is if your judgement would answer, but when you know that man cannot will nor do, so as to please gods of himself, it is consequently best to do at all times according to gods judgements, & let him work in us to will & to do, at all times, according to his good pleasure, for I hope you have learned before this that man naturally is prodigious of nothing but evil, & is in darkness & knows not his distance from god is not convinced of their awfull position in the sight of god, and does not know that it is of the mercy of god that they are not in hell, nor do they know the judgements of god regarding them & think not that the axe is laid at the <sup>root</sup> trees, that in case it doth not bring forth fruit after another years grace the executioner may be

commanded to eat & dwell <sup>only</sup> ~~under~~ <sup>underneath</sup> the ground, But I fear that many <sup>in many</sup> who do profess to be enlightened respecting Spiritual matters. are in greater darkness than they imagine, at least they do not seem to be affected much with it if any, for they seemingly keep at too great a distance from god, as if conviction was all that they had attained to. that their union with Christ was only formal, as if they had no certainty whether they had received pardon or not, or whether they were in his Kingdom or Satons. whether <sup>they</sup> are governed by the Spirit of god or the flesh, whether they are under the law or under grace, whether they are justified by Jesus Christ's good works or for their own good works, always in bondage except when their freedom is imaginary and you know that would not profit them any thing on a dying bed, nor in life either. It appears then that both the unlightened man and the hypocrite have got their eyes shut up, & also their ears, & their understanding taken in from them, by the god of this world, & if god has not mercy upon them they never will be in a better state.

Now my Son ad do not know for certain your present state of blind in relation to its safety, as there may be great changes by grace wrought upon both you, & me since d. & you spoke last on that affair, so that untill we get better informed, I shall only speak of my own state, & advise you as my gracious God & Saviour may enable me, for our mutual profit.

As regards my own state in the sight of god, & as he has revealed myself to my self I think there never was a more filthy creature, as I have been, on the face of the earth. I there <sup>for</sup> have been one of the chiefest of sinners, the thorns that crowned my blessed Saviour, the nails that pierced his holy hands & feet, & the spear that pierced his innocent side, was formed of my most filthy sins. yet I believe that the blood that flowed thereby, hath perfectly washed away that awefull filth of sin, when self righteousness nor nothing else could have done it. & the glory & the praise be unto god the Father, who hath made Christ Jesus unto me wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, & Redemption, & who hath sent down his Holy Spirit into my heart, to lead me into all truth & righteousness, & produce in me

Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, & temperance, against which there is no law, and I believe though I can do nothing more of my self in the future, than I have done in the past, to please god. yet I have his precious promises to enable me to do what I could not do before my grace shall be sufficient for you. therefore I can like paul take pleasure in infirmities, & necessities, reproaches, persecutions, & Distresses. for when I am weak then am I strong, and my god has given me to believe that he will finish what he has begun for the work is all his from beginning to end all I can do is to love & praise & follow him in the faith & that not of my self it is the gift of god. That my Son is a better portrait of my self, for it is of gods making, than any creature could have drawn for you, of my wil. Old man. so you need not wonder at scruples about having portraits taken of my self, there is no Image like gods, I hope he will give me more & more of that every day. for Jesus & a great men.

Now my Son suffer a word of counsell from your father I Examine yourself whether you are in the faith prove your own self & pray to your heavenly father that he would for Christs sake, lead you to see the wilness of your natural state as he has drawn the picture of it in his word, this he will do by his Holy Spirit, that he would give you faith to rest upon his word of truth according to the Scriptures & that every thing that is opposed to this every word, is lies, whether it comes from the Devil, your own heart, or the world, & by this you will know how you stand before god. I pray also that he would be pleased to reveal his Son in you see John 6:37. 44. 45. Receive Jesus Christ according to the the gospel as the gift of god freely offered to you, see John 6:29; John 3:25. & John 1:12. The following passages will show you what you have <sup>to</sup> leave for in order that you may be his disciple Luke 14:26. Matt 19:29. Mark 10:29. 30.

Luke 14:21-23-24 Acts 4:54. Luke 29:23-24-25. you ought to be thank  
 to god for the gospel that it has reached you Matt 24:14; & 28:19.  
 Rom 10:18. also for a knowledge of the righteousness which is of faith.  
 Rom 10:4-7. He that seeketh the Lord with all his heart shall find  
 him yea he is to be sought as for hid treasure. he says look unto me  
 all ye ends of the earth and be saved for I am god & there is none else  
 Come unto me all ye that are heavily laden with sin & I will give you  
 rest never rest untill you can with certainty say that the Lord is yours  
 by faith, and all with him for short of that there is no peace nor joy  
 write down & let me know how you prosper in this way,

Your folks hereabouts are all well for ought I know

I remain your ever affectionat Father

Daniel Smith