



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1866-02-28

Letter from John Muir to David Gilrye Muir, 1866 Feb 28

John Muir

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Mary I wish I could not forget you and that she would like to see you to collect seeds for our garden.

C 13
 St Vincent Feb 28th / 66

Dear brother Dan,

I rec'd a letter from Sarah a few days ago by which I learned that you had written me twice since arriving in Buff. This last time I had not heard from me at all, now Master Dan I believe that one of the hollows have been as complaining a ditty to the tune of "Shall we hear of Dan again", as ever you could sing of the hollows. I rec'd one letter from you since your visit home in which you spoke of your disappointment concerning your educational affairs, excepting this one, no letter has reached any of us. The following letters have been mailed for you, to which as yet, no answer has been rec'd, one from me

C 23

written shortly after the receipt of yours respecting Oberlin college, One inclosed in last from Mary Trout, and another from Mary Harcus, also one from Mary Harcus, Rachel, & Harriet in one envelope, written just about the time of your departure for home. ^{also a very fine one from "Hat" over} I from a friend have a peculiar value & such letters are always deeply felt, a business letter, lost or tardy, may occasion serious pecuniary disaster - but never such real sorrow as the loss of friendships, holy feelings who steals my purse steals trash 'But he who filches friendships letters long, takes what not enriches him and makes me mad indeed'

Now I am if ^[33] all of these loving
letters from loving girls are
really lost you in justice
to yourself and them should
"lament in rhyme lament
in prose" as I have done
over the top of yours.
I do not feel as though I
could write at all tonight
for you may never receive
this, and besides I cannot
tell what you know & what
you do not know of our hollow
news, warning the risk how-
ever of being dull, and of telling
the same thing twice over I
will write some news like
rows of words in a spelling
book.

A Jay has mated a Raven
(Albion).

Mary Ann Whittlaw has married Hugh
Young.

Uncle Sterling has returned home.

Levin Fay is hired here for a year.

Mr Trout ^[42] has been very sick for
three weeks, is slowly getting well.
The people of Meaford speak of
building a steam mill in their
village soon -

we have a new stable and
a new clearing -

The family of Mr Spratford ran
away from him a few days
ago but he caught the fugitives
at Collingwood and would
not let them escape.

The sawmill is now run by
a (Mr) Lake, but we still
need the pond - The saw "runs"
is hither & thither that the
sawyer is supposed to be employed.

We have had very stormy
weather and "driffting" many ~~hundreds~~
we have just finished the making
of 30,000 broom handles for
a firm in Toronto - I turned
28,000 of them I turned over 2800
one day I intended an important

[5]
attachments for the latter by
which better and far faster turning
can be done.
I have also invented and
nearly completed the con-
struction of an iron clock
(please do not tell the folks
at home about this)
I have invented an entirely
new method of making rake teeth
Also of making bows
also a machine for boring for
and driving the teeth, and
several other fixings of greater
or lesser importance, all of
which I shall describe some
other time.

Anna Layton Maggie Trout
and some others have joined
the Church.

I agree with the Trouts on re-
ligious matters as badly as ever
but do not read so frequently.
What Church do you attend?

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Charles Jay is frequently found
 guilty of joking,
 How do you get along in
 learning your trade
 How do you spend your
 evenings
 How many & what kind of
 acquaintances have you
 What Church do you attend
 I suppose that you still intend
 to go to school
 I am sure that a year spent
 in the study of practical mechanics
 will not be regarded as lost
 Mary Marcus is teaching school in Sydenham
 I am very sleepy Her P.O. is Little Mass
 Will you please send me the
 following books by express as
 soon as possible
 Loomis's Introduction to practical
 Astronomy (Latest edition)
 Elements of the Analytical Geometry
 and of the Integral and Differential
 Calculus of Loomis

The people of the hollow wood
 are very much interested in
 your letter.