



1866-05-07

Letter from John Muir to Daniel H. Muir, 1866 May 7

John Muir

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follow. They have bought it again but cannot build yet William is working at
 He tells her that if she will walk in the fields with me she will find that Solomon himself could not talk more wisely about plants than I, ha, ha! He tells me to go and see her without any bashfulness but I have some of that slavish fear that you speak of and I don't know whether to visit her or not. I suppose that you are now in the midst of friends & society - while I have not one in all this place. I am I suppose that you too are determined to be a machine maker, how do you prosper with that great one I hope you will help me by your inventions to show all mankind that the scotch are the salt of the earth - and the salt of machines. In any of your ventures or undertakings you may all ways depend on my help when you wish it - either in money or otherwise I want you to feel that my purse

is your own and welcome. Have you heard from the

his trade. I am I left a pocket handkerchief with you. that Mary I want you to take good care of it - by and send it some way if you can

Indrapolis Ind
 May 7th 1866

Dear Dany
 I am still in this great noisy town, but begin to feel more at home. I am in good health, and by doing double work earn on an average about 22 dollars per week, so that I have plenty of money in my pocket. I am getting acquainted with our shop and with my employers, I have just begun to make the model for the patent office, and will now put it through right or wrong. As soon as the clock is disposed of I will begin operations for another.

Tell me how you get on with your work and your photograph to me & to Walter I want good bye from your friend brother John

patent, for I have about made up my mind that it is impossible for me to escape from mechanics, I begin to see and feel that I really have some talent for invention, and I just think that I will turn all my attention that way at once.

I am surprised to find so few real original inventors among workmen in these great shops, we have but one and I am very sure that I can very materially improve his best invention viz a hub lathe.

This town is noted for fever & ague, but I am determined not to leave it until I have made my invention mark. I am now working at making plow handles.

I received letters lately from all of our family nearly and from Henry Butler & his father, and from Emily Petton, and from Chas^d Jay and W. Trout.

I wrote a letter to Mary & Anna full of advice about getting married etc, I hope that like their brother Dan they will not have any clavish fear concerning it, Emily sends me advice as follows: "Stick to your inventions God did not give you that inventive brain for naught" etc

Henry B sent his photograph and a letter written by himself his father, Prof^d Butler sent me quite a note, together with a letter of introduction to a lady Miss of this town in high life