



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1867-01-13

Letter from John Muir to Daniel H. Muir, 1867 Jan 13

John Muir

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I like my home here very
 much I am glad ^{you} find
 friends. My health is better
 than it was in summer and
 I take things a little easier in
 the shop, and mean to shirk
 heavy work still more
 Our spoke turners are on their
 beam ends about being cut down
 to forty-cents per hundred
 times are dull in Ind^y

I wish you could see
 what a nice room I have
 but I must leave this
 chatty unconnected letter and
 go to my telling bed

I bid you good night with cordial
 longings for your happiness and
 general prosperity

Your affectionate brother
 John

Ind^y Jan 13th 97

Dear brother Dannie
 Your letter of the 3rd came
 with bad news I was truly
 sorry to hear that you had
 suffered so intensely during
 these days of recreation & festivity
 I can scarce see how you can
 live through five weeks of sore hand
 with no other exercise than
 that made necessary by the intensity
 of the pain you have to bear
 And I am surprised too
 that your pecuniary affairs
 speak out so small a sum
 but we cannot expect our education
 in the concerns of life for nothing
 You will profit by experience - a
 man who cannot lose money ^{cannot}
 make it - Sixty six is dead - let the
 "dead" bury its dead" - there is

Sixty Seven and now my brother,
take heart and go onward.

You are cheerful, & hopeful, and
know but little of putting cautious
fear, and so of course, like a
stouthearted boy learning to
skate, you must have a few
good tumbles, but such are
most successful at last.

And as the proverb is true, a bad
beginning leads to a good ending,
I think your sky is as promising
as either James or mine, and
more so than 90 percent of all the
young men of America.

A boy that can penetrate Canada
west from sea to sea without wrong
and speak uncompromisingly
three times a day to audiences
assembled in schoolhouse, parlor,
or hall, with voice of song, and sounds
of drum, fife, & martial trumpet,
kettle drums and that.

Such a boy will not, I think
"tremble on the brink of any
earthly woe" -

You must tell me about the
speculation.

What is timber lands worth in
your vicinity?

I am still pushing away at
my saw table but I do not mean
to do so always.

John Reeves speaks of resuming
his trade in the country - he
speaks of taking a look at the
country around you soon.

I expect all the Jews are
back to the hollow. They did not
do well at all in Petrolia.

Mary Harkness is teaching in Oak-
ville now.

The streets here are very slippery
and there is danger of falling
slite at every step.