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1867-03-20

## Letter from James Davie Butler to John Muir, 1867 Mar 20

James Davie Butler

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Madison, Wis.  
March 20<sup>th</sup> 1867.

John Muir, Esq.

My dear Friend,

We are with you in spirit and in sympathy. Our mutual friend, Miss Merrill has informed us of your sad, and irreparable loss.

Such a stroke - like the death of a friend who is as our own soul, is beyond all consolation, beyond all thinking of with composure, beyond every thing save reflecting that such is the will of God.

Inconsolable we well might be did affliction come forth of the dust and trouble spring out of the ground.

But the cup our Father - our Father who is in heaven, that is infinite in all perfections, - shall we not drink it?

[4] Henry sends you his best fellow feeling in your suffering, and only mourns that you are so far from his assisting and sympathizing words and deeds. He begs me to inclose you a photograph and album, hoping your eyes may bear to look on them by the time they reach you. -  
Dearly you may not be able to read my lines I will inclose them to come to your ears (with) prayers that the check may do previous may prove in the end yours I am, as ever,  
Yr friend,  
Geo. S. Brewster.)

I know well it is one thing  
to reason - and quite another  
thing to feel as one knows he should  
in pain, darkness, and gloom lowering  
over the future.

In all the blasting of your  
hope may you find Christ to be  
more precious than your right  
eye! Be assured He knoweth  
our frame, and pitieth the  
souls he hath made.

I have now a double joy  
that you are known to the Iltterill  
brotherhood, for I know that some  
of your sorrows will be hence  
alleviated.

May no sympathetic evil  
afflict your other eye! May  
light dawn for you on a disken-  
sation at first so dark!

My wife bids you, as  
you get better, to come and  
see us, - making our house your

home while you convalesce,  
and refresh your walks  
around our beautiful lakes.  
Henry and I join with  
her in hopes you will do so.  
For several weeks past  
I have suffered in both lungs  
and liver. On one day, - the  
only time in my nine years  
here, - I was utterly unable  
to drink the University Hill  
My health is now much im-  
proved, - and I am spending  
much time on books of travel  
hoping I may some time  
cross the broad water yet  
one more. -  
Nothing has varied the  
position of our quiet life  
since I met you before.  
We have a minor shareholder  
and my wife is holding herself  
a real fortune to raise her money.