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1867-04-06

## Letter from John Muir to Jeanne C. Carr, 1867 Apr 6

John Muir

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I believe with you that "nothing is without meaning & purpose that comes from a Father's hand". but during these dark weeks I could not feel this and as for courage & fortitude scarce the shadows of these virtues were left me, the shock upon my nervous system made me weak in mind as a child but enough of love

When I can walk & where printed specimens of Linnaeus are I will send you many as you wish -

I must close I thank you all again for your kindness I cannot make sentences that will tell how much I feel indebted to you

Please remember me to all my friends.

You will write soon, I can read my letters now, please send them to care of Cogood & Smith

Cordially J. M. Wain

Sunday Apr 6<sup>th</sup> 61

Miss Carr dear friend your precious letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> reached me last night - by accident it was nearly lost

I cannot tell you how I can how much I appreciate your sympathy and all of these kind thoughts of cheer & substantial consolation which you have stored for me in this letter

I am much better than when I wrote you - can now sit up about all day & in a room partly lighted

Your doctor says "the aguish humor may be beyond, - How - by nature or by art?"

The position of my wound will be seen in this figure



The eye is pressed just - where the cornea meets - the sclerotic coating I do not know the depth

of the wound or its exact direction  
 Sight was completely gone from  
 the injured eye for the first  
 few days & my physician said  
 it would be ever gone but  
 I was surprised to find that on  
 the fourth or fifth day I could  
 see a little with it - Sight con-  
 tinued to increase for a few  
 days but for the last three  
 weeks it has not perceptibly  
 increased or diminished

I called in a Dr Parvin  
 lately, said to be a very skillful  
 oculist & of large experience  
 both here & abroad in Europe  
 he said that he thought the  
 iris permanently injured - that  
 the crystalline lens was not  
 injured, that of course my  
 two eyes would not work to-  
 gether and that on the whole  
 my chances of distinct vision  
 were not good - But the  
 bare possibility of anything like full  
 sight is now my ~~last~~ <sup>only</sup> ~~distant~~ <sup>hope</sup>  
 hope, when the wound was  
 made, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a teaspoonful

of fluid like the white of an egg  
 flowed out upon my fingers  
 aqueous fluid I suppose

The eye has not lost its  
 natural appearance

I can see sufficiently well  
 with it; to avoid the furniture  
 etc in walking through a room

Can almost in full light  
 recognize some of my friends

But cannot distinguish one  
 letter from another of common  
 type I would like to hear  
 or Cars Spinon of my case

When I received my blow  
 I could not feel any pain  
 or faintness because the ter-  
 rible thought-gleared full  
 on me that my right eye  
 was lost - I could gladly have  
 died on the spot because I  
 did not feel that I could have  
 heart to look at any flower  
 again But this is not so  
 for I wish to try some cloudy  
 day to walk to the woods where  
 I am and some of Spring's sweet-  
 first born is wanting