



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1869-01-01

**Letter from John Muir to Georgie [Galloway], [1869 Jan 1].**

John Muir

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I must go  
 to bed early  
 and get up  
 early that  
 I may have  
 my lessons  
 for I had  
 calls all  
 evening, Saturday  
 and so could  
 not pen a  
 line of any  
 length.

[CP]

and very  
 anxious to be  
 long in writing  
 as to make me  
 have so heavy  
 a heart.

Pleasant  
 winter  
 Yours into  
 Joana

certainly not less than half a  
 dozen young gents made their  
 way over to shake hands and  
 say well done, and the girls  
 unanimously exclaimed  
 splendid, splendid! that's the  
 best we've had tonight, I also  
 sang in two quartets, and  
 by the way Prof. Graham has  
 taken a notion into his head  
 to call me away over to the  
 other side of the assembly  
 room, to sing alto so I have  
 to sit right by him, and  
 make wailing sounds, which,  
 great honor I do not entirely  
 appreciate. But alas! alas!

what a dreadful egotist I  
 am becoming I am heartily  
 ashamed of myself.  
 I also had a letter from  
 Mother this morning even  
 if it was Sunday, so I guess  
 the folks do think something  
 of me yet. They are all  
 well at home. I have not  
 yet written to John as I do  
 not know what his address  
 is, I suppose he has gone to  
 Oakland, but do not know.  
 I wish you would tell me if  
 you know.

You ask for another subject  
 I was thinking that Books  
 would be a good one. Consider  
 the different kinds. There are  
 some books in which something  
 is to be written, and which may  
 be compared to our minds or

or hearts, on which Time is the hand that writes and the pen with which he writes is, outside influences, such as, reading, social intercourse, and every thing with which we come in contact. In some there are but a few pages written (children) some are half written, and some are nearly finished (old w.). Then there are printed books. Some full of good things and like good people, always do us good. Whenever we associate with them there are these dry uninspiring ones, which represent another class of individuals, there are also those that poison the mind and cast abroad an influence for evil over the land, which may certainly be likened to kill another class of people. Then there is the book of nature, which is a deep subject for you, and also the Burns book of life, which will render you ample scope for a beautiful theme. You can also speak of the affection which we sometimes cultivate for books, either for their own real merits or for their associations, and the care which it is our duty to give books in our possession, as they really seem to command our respect.

1. All that do? I hope you may be able to weave around this skeleton some of your beautiful thoughts and if you do I should be delighted to see it. I would consider it a great favor if you would send me one or two of your essay articles as I presume that I shall have to contribute for the Lycium paper. How many times have I wished that I had your faculty for poetry making that I might write a nice little poem which would be suitable for such an occasion and I have half a mind to ask you to write me one, only I fear it might be impossible on your time. I am so glad that you have been enjoying life as well. Keep on, that's the way to do. Annie says she will help me to finish the term anyway, and maybe I can't make out to go the next and so finish the year, what do you think? As for Hamilton Mother is not going, and Father understands it now, I don't know whether he will go himself or not, and don't care much either, don't trouble your head about that I don't.