



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1870-05-15

Letter from John Muir to [James Davie] Butler, [1870] May 15.

John Muir

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and you know how much work that brings along with it, but it is pretty well along now and I think will be very comfortable when finished. I have been doing rather more than my usual amount of digging raking and planting this spring, my trees and bushes are growing finely and I think repay for all the trouble, my health is rather poor but I manage to be around and help along a little. I keep a goat to do my work and go out of doors a good deal. Maggie has been out here twice lately she still keeps her little pony & buggy and rides out nearly every day I think it does her a great deal of good. Joanne is at home this summer Mother's health is pretty good. I am glad ~~she~~ ^{she} is at home it seems so lonesome for Mother when the girls are all gone still she always seems willing to hear it so if the girls would rather Father is very busy you know he never does anything by halves and he is learning. write soon and send me a little posty. Grand near Yellow Bay send to tell you that she was glad you ^{are so} well and liking the place where you are so well as you seem to be from your affectionate Sister Sarah.

Round Hill May 8th 1870

Dear Uncle John

You said in one of your last letters that you would like me to write to you so I think I will do so now. I am going to school this summer our teachers name is Georgia Shaw I like her very well. We have a long term of school this summer it being four months and a half. I am getting along nicely with my studies I study Grammar, Geography, Practical Arithmetic, Mental Arithmetic, History and spelling. - Mr Van Brunt is building our new house just now so that when you come back we will have a nice big room for you to ^{put} ~~spread~~ all your curiosities ^(when you show them to) and a nice big bed-room for your special benefit. Mother has been sowing her flower seed and we have nice times helping her. We have a great many flower shrubs among which are Snowdrop, Snowball, Flowering Almond, Climbing Rose Variegated Rose Damascus Rose White Rose Scotch Rose

Blush Rose Persian Lilac White Lilac and
Honey suckle. —

May 17th Last week the teacher and some of
largest scholars went up to the lock which is
about a mile from the school house. We ex-
pected to return with a great lot of fish but
we did not take any bait expecting to get
some when we got there but we could not
find any so we had to give it up. We then
thought we would have a boatride and after
hunting a good long time we found one but the
super would not let us have it so we had to give
that up too. Then after playing a while longer
we started home all well, satisfied with the excursion
- last night George and I went to a lecture; the man
had a "Magic Lantern" which showed forty different pictures
of ancient Babylon and also some of the wild animals
which now inhabit the place. The first was the picture
of an elephant led by a little girl the next a lion, &
cubs. next the lion next the leopard next a map of Babylon he
said that the wall around the city was 350 feet high
and that the city was fifteen miles square. there was
a picture of the Hanging gardens, and Old Palace,
the New Palace, the Idol worshipped by the Babylonians,
Daniel in the den of Lions, the feast of Belshazzar and the
hand writing on the wall, Darius besieging the city, the Pyramid
on the Nile. The man said that the Pyramids were built of bricks & cement
mixed together with the cement which was no thicker than a slice of paper
and that it would break most any other where than where the
cement was. Then there was the tower of Babel which the people
used for an observatory and for taking their astronomical observations
and other things of equal interest. Here are a few paper blues
which I pressed a year ago but forgot to send them.
I wish you could see Ma's house Rose this morning, it has four
beautiful Roses and a great many buds
but I must close now or I will be late for school and
that you know would never do. Yours affectionate
niece Anna

May 17th / 80

My Dear Brother

Annie has begun
this letter and it seems hard telling
when she will finish it. Now as I
know that you want to see this picture
I am going to help it along by filling
up one side; this is I think a perfect
picture of Mother still I think it
would have looked better if it had
been taken smaller. Now remember
when you acknowledge this please
do so to me as Father likes to see
your letters and you know it would
not do for him to know of this. remember
I thank you for that kind brotherly
letter you sent me last, I have read
it over and over and have not done
yet, it smells of flowers and tells of
loving remembrance, Daniel is very
busy this spring we are building the
an lepenight to the west end of our house