



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1872-08-20

## Letter from Katie M. Graydon to John Muir, 1872 Aug 20.

Katie M. Graydon

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I wish you would write often, and send me flowers, because I clearly love them. I am going to study Botany this year. Papa's Mamama send this love to you. or Merrill. I wish you would stir Merrill up or make him write, and you write soon. Aggie -  
Kate & Erayok

this vacation, and I do not have any time to read while I go to school.

Do you remember that day you were out at our house and we went over in the woods to get flowers and ferns? Well the woods have been sold and cut up in to lots, and a very handsome, Orphan Asylum has been built. A great many of those beautiful trees have been cut down too.

I saw a piece of yours in the Scribner not very long ago.

A friend of Papa's a Mr. Conroy, has just come home from the Yosemite. He asked him all about the said place. I thought - he saw you but was not quite sure whether he did or not. Did you see him? I suspect if you did you did not know who he was.  
Elm Knoll. Aug 20th. '72  
Tuesday aft.

Dear Mr. Merrill -  
I received your letter last Wednesday, and was very glad to get it. The flowers were as pretty as they could be, and made the letter smell so sweetly. I thought - the larger blue flower smell - a good deal like penny royal. I wish you and Merrill were here to help us enjoy our peaches and grapes. We have had a great deal of fruit - this summer.

906

Strawberries - currant, goose-  
berries - raspberries,  
Blackberries, apples, pears  
peaches, grapes, and melons,  
besides our vegetables,

We have a splendid  
orchard, it is young, but  
it is bearing a good deal  
this summer.

I think you would not-  
<sup>know</sup> it - out by our house now,  
at all. We are nearly in  
the city limits, and it has  
grown very rapidly.

We expect aunt Kate and  
Janet home next week or the  
week after, Aunt Julia and  
Charles stay until October.

School begins in about  
two weeks. I am going  
to the High School, and  
not the University where Janet

will go. I am so sorry not  
to be with Janet, but it is  
so far from our house, that  
I never could get there in  
time in the morning, unless  
I would stay with aunt-  
Kate, I have been away from  
home so much in winter  
that I want to try and  
stay at home this winter.

I have just finished  
"Dombey & Son". Have you  
ever read it? I liked it  
very much. I am reading  
"Rob Roy" now. I have  
not read near as much  
this vacation as I wanted  
to. I thought I would read  
"Pancroft's History of the  
United States," but it is so  
long and I did not get  
started in time to finish it.

Elm Knoll, Aug. 29th, '72.

Dear Mr. Muir,

I received your letter last Wednesday, and was very glad to get it. The flowers were as pretty as they could be, and made the letter smell so sweetly. I thought the larger blue flower smelt a good deal like pennyroyal. I wish you and Merrill were here to help us enjoy our peaches and grapes. We have had a great deal of fruit this summer, strawberries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, apples, pears, peaches, grapes, and melons, besides our vegetables. We have a splendid orchard. It is young, but it is bearing a good deal this summer.

I think you would not know it out by our house now at all. We are nearly in the city limits, and it has grown very rapidly. We expect Aunt Kate and Janet home next week, or the week after. Aunt Julia and Charles stay until October. School begins in about two weeks. I am going to the High School, and not the University, where Janet will go. I am so sorry not to be with Janet, but it is so far from our house that I never could get there in time in the mornings, unless I would stay with Aunt Kate. I have been away from home so much in winter that I want to try and stay at home this winter. I have just finished "Dombey and Son." Have you ever read it? I liked it very much. I am reading "Rob Roy" now. I have not read near as much this vacation as I wanted to. I thought I would read "Bancroft's History of the United States," but it is so long and I did not get started in time to finish it this vacation, and I do not have any time to read while I go to school.

Do you remember that day you were out at our house and we went over in the woods to get flowers and ferns? Well, the woods have been sold and cut up into lots, and a very handsome Orphan Asylum has been built. A great many of those beautiful trees have been cut down too.

I saw a piece of yours in the Scribner's not very long ago. I wish you would write often, and send me flowers, because I dearly love them, and I am going to study Botany this year. Papa and Mama send their love to you, and Merrill. I wish you would stir Merrill up and make him write, and you write soon again.

Katie M. Graydon.

[Folder marked "Katie Graydon's first letter, and one 8 yrs. later 1872 & 1880"]