



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1873-11-16

Letter from Joanna [Muir] to May [Mary Muir], 1873 Nov 16.

Joanna Muir

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I have been taking lessons in writing since coming here, (although my writing does not indicate it) and I was just thinking that when you and I live together, we will practice this out together and learn to be a beautiful penman. I am sure you can if you will practice with me, and I think it is delightful to be a writer. Oh what grand times we are going to have some day. I love to study, better than ever before and am looking forward to long years of mind culture, and keen enjoyment in searching out lovely things in nature and the rich truths in story. For those who hunger at things for them. I do not know that I can say any new about my studies but I delight as vigorously as ever at the old branches. Write and tell me all your plans and all your thoughts very soon. Please.

Most lovingly
 Joanna

It is not necessary to put formal studies on my letter. I will send my picture to you in my next letter and I suppose they are very little like the ones you know.

Oshkosh, Wis.
 Nov. 16th 1873.

Dearest May
 Your little comforter of the 2nd inst. is received. Your handwriting is superlatively fine, I do not doubt that it did cause a laugh. Ida and I had a hearty laugh also, but I don't see how you dared read it. I have listened to so many essays of late all so heavenly sublime that the contrast was somewhat glaring, although I had just declared my intentions of writing on mud pies when called upon for the sake of a change, however I your heart's mine. We do not have to write essays this term but will have to go into it whole sale next term I expect. Your ask for a

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subject for the next; If you want
a matter of fact one, I think
this will be just the one for you -
"Having eyes to see they see not."

You & I am sure can enlarge upon
that grandly; so many pass
through this world with eyes en-
tirely blind to the grandeur of the
earth of ours. Mental blindness also
you can speak of, making the
mind dark even when there is so
much light and happiness,
and keen delight for us if we are
but willing to let the light in.

But you know what I mean
and are far better able to treat
the subject than I.

And now there are but five
weeks more till Christmas and
I am beginning to wonder what
is to be done. I have not yet heard
from John; If he should come of
course we should all go home

and then we could make fur-
ther arrangements then, but sup-
pose he should not come, what
then, would you come?

The next term is only ten weeks in
length and I think I can make
sufficient means to carry me through
that, as I can live quite cheaply
here, but further I cannot see
nor do I need, that is far enough.

What think you of Father's
modus operandi isn't it too bad?
I am sure I do not know how
it is to be terminated, certainly Ma-
ma does not want to go away and
to Canada and get word that he
has bought a house there I suppose
he will be very determined.

I had a letter from Annie this
morning, in which she said she
was going to teach in the village
Marcellon this winter. I am
glad she will have means of her
own again; I think it will do
her good too, to have a change.
I am glad she has had this
opportunity.