



1873-11-16

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

Joanna Muir

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### Recommended Citation

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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 qualities in stone. 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. 16<sup>th</sup> 1873.

Dearest May  
 Your little comforter of the end was 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  
one 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.