



1884-12-30

## Letter from John Muir to David [Gilrye Muir], 1884 Dec 30.

John Muir

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Martinez, Dec 30, 1884.

Dear brother David.

I wish you a good lucky & happy new year full of hope & all the best that Heaven sends.

I'm very sorry to hear from time to time that Katie is not at all well & suffers a great deal. How great must be always an affliction that lasts from year to year while friends can only sympathize without bringing relief from the actual pain. Anna Maria too is coughing again & I feel very anxious about her. & father too is weighed down with poor health as well as years.

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and so always is the happiness of life mixed with suffering. And well may we be led to look fondly ahead to the better land where no pain or separation is, little though we know about it.

I mean to see you all some time this happy new year. Seeing you after so long a journey in earth's wildest wilderness will make indeed new to me. I could not come now without leaving the ranch to go to wreck a score of workmen without a head & no head to be found though I have looked long for a farmman. Next spring after the grapes are pruned & sulphured

etc & the cherry crop sold. I mean to pay off all but half dozen or so & leave things to take their course for a month or two. Can't you send me some good steady fellow to learn this fruit business & take some of the personal supervision off my shoulders. Such a person could be sure of a job as long as he liked. I want you to write often this year than heretofore however briefly - Give minutes a month at least you might devote to me. Give Katie my kindest regards & buy some books or anything they may like for the children & charge to my acct. Ever lovingly  
Your brother.  
Edwin Mearns