



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1885-04-20

Letter from John Muir to David [Gilrye Muir], 1885 Apr 20.

John Muir

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Martinez April 20, 1885

Dear Brother David.

I am very sorry to learn the sad bereavement you & your children have suffered in the death of your dear good wife though on account of her long suffering of pain one could not wish that her life should have been prolonged.

Sad as separation from loved ones always is yet it is a very consoling thought that the separation is never for long. For we invariably follow them. Night comes to all. - the night of death as surely as the night of a single day to the young & old, weak & strong to the healthy & diseased

Martinez 1885 consolation

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Life is a day with its
morning noon & night
while disease & whatever
shortens life is only
an incident in the
grand eternal movement.

Not many I think
have enjoyed more in
a marriage union & walk
through life than yourself
& Katie Cairns. I am
sure that even in the
first painful fresh grief
of separation you can
realize that there is with
you far more joy than sorrow. No life
is short or a failure which
has been vivified by love.
And then over & above all
these consoling considerations
there is the noble view of
another life in a better

world than this dim
& far though it be to the
eyes of our poor limited
mortals. God our Father
loves us all & whether
here or there living or
dying directs & leads us
in the ways that are
the best however little
we may be able under
our aching burdens to
realize it.

Take heart than dear
brother & live on bravely
& bravely until your own
time & the time of all your
loved family comes for you
to move on & follow after.

Ever your affectionate
brother John Muir.