



1890-02-01

Letter from Maggie [Margaret Muir Reid] to John Muir, 1890 Feb 1.

Margaret Muir Reid

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if it should
be dry again
as for several
years back.
he has been
trying in
different
places to find
a position
to work for
a salary
for anything
to do but both
-out-success
is sometimes
he talks of
renting a
farm, but
in either case
[4]

There is nothing on the place in
Kansas but a few horses & the
cow & J. thought Harry could
take care of everything there &
perhaps he could earn a few
dollars to help keep us this winter
he has worked a month or five
weeks breaking horses, but
the weather has not been favorable
for about three weeks now, and
yesterday Harry's bill of
expenses was sent as he is
too young, or not ^{thoughtless} ~~that~~ but ~~too~~ a
boy to be left so. (he is nineteen)
& it has taken ^{him} a good deal more
to run the place than it would
his father, & nothing to meet it.
it costs to go down to see about
things, & J. thinks, or fears he could
make little or nothing of the place

(1)
Crate Feb Feb 7 1890st

My dear Brother John
Your kind and
comforting letter of Jan 13th was
received yesterday. & I am
glad to know you are all well
I had made up my mind to
write to you within a few days
as it began to seem long since
we heard from you, but not
such a letter as this. may be
our always happy & pleasant
correspondence has been sadly
mixed for a long time with dis-
tressing affairs & I don't like to write
about them John. but your ever
kindly interest in us encourages
me to confide in you
The land & the gr. sec. that we

5th P.S

John please
 tell me what
 you think
 about things
 dont you think
 we had better
 go down & live
 on the place
 & try to hold
 it if we are
 able as it may
 be valuable
 before many
 years
 Trouble has
 seemed to be
 mostly John
 that a great
 part of the time
 he seems to be
 to think about it

what would ~~would~~ we do
 with the place in Kane every
 thing would be torn down &
 taken if left alone. I think
 we had better move down
 there it would not take much to
 keep us. Jessie gets thirty five dollars
 a month & the prospect of more
 perhaps. she could board or stay
 with Anna. & Anna has a good
 home. May is able to teach and
 will be old enough soon. she is
 seventeen now. & I think the
 boys would like it on the farm
 & I would be glad to be a kind of
 hermit after what has passed
 if my family are fairly comfo-
 -table

how glad I will be to see you
 I sometimes wish I could talk to

feared losing, was almost gone - the time was up & he had written a letter & went to mail it. ^{it}cluding to a man for just what was to pay on it, but just then he rec'd a letter from Brother David with a five hundred ^{dollar} check & later Willis Hand sent one hundred dollars which cleared the payment. & payed the dues on the whole & a little more. but in the fall he will again be at the mercy of the R. R. ~~co~~ & fears he will have to lose it all as a payment of one thousand dollars & arrears, two perhaps. will have to be made on the two sections (about three thousand will clear the third & the third section being school land. is to be payed by one hundred dollar a year. payments. for about sixteen years. J. says he would be willing to let it all go with his three thousand dolr worth of impro-

vements also about fifteen hundred dollars which he personally has payed on it. if he could only get enough to pay Sarah out of it. & could get anything to do to make something to live on & pay debt but there is no prospect of making a living. debts out of the question. God only knows what we are to do. John is perfectly discouraged & held down with seemingly insurmountable difficulties old & new. & does not know what to do. or where to turn. after he got rid of the horses (which was sold at a big loss) J. was partly promised help to buy some sheep to put on the place which seemed to him & others to be the best investment, but it was so late when he got through with the horses, he was put off for or till another ^{fall} & no certainty of it then.

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with you I dreamed you were here the other night. I hope you are not writing too hard. I hear you are going to write for the Centuary again. we have not heard that Mary & family have moved to Kearney yet. we anxiously hope they will make us a visit on their way.

we are better now but have all had this La Grippe, or influenza except May. John & John. had it light. it griped me hard for two weeks. but I am much better. but so nervous.

Give my love to Louie & the children. what a comfort & pleasure the little girls must be to you all now. also remember me to Dr. & Mrs. Strutzel.

pardn me John if I have done wrong in writing this doleful letter. but your kindly sympathy is precious as ever
Maggie

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