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1904-11-01

Letter from John Muir to [Abbigail A.] Allen, [1904 Nov ?].

John Muir

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**Recommended Citation**

Muir, John, "Letter from John Muir to [Abbigail A.] Allen, [1904 Nov ?]." (1904). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 2906.

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[First draft of letter, in note-book]

[Mrs. Charles H. Allen]

[Nov., 1904]

Dear Mrs. Allen:

Ever since I heard of your loss I have been anxious to try to say something that I could hope might help to cheer you in your loneliness and lighten your burden of sorrow, but words from hearts however faithful seem of no avail. None are fine enough, tender enough, so at last we can only pray Heaven to comfort you with blessed hope of reunion in the happy world above all sorrow and death.

Few lives have been longer than your husband's, fewer still so full of good everlasting work. Always cheerful and young, full of happy hopeful memories, looking on the good side of everything, he has guided and cheered to success how many pilgrims on life's hard roads. How many cold and sad have been warmed in his heart. As a teacher his influence will go on forever echoing from mind to mind and heart to heart, for all goodness is immortal.

With sincere sympathy, dear Mrs. Allen and children, I am,

Ever faithfully yours,

J. M.

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[First draft of letter, in note-book]

[Nov., 1904]

[Mrs.] Wm. H. Averell,  
325 East Avenue,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Averell:

Through a notice in a Rochester newspaper I have just learned your loss. I wish I could write anything that I could hope might help to cheer you in your loneliness and lighten your burden of sorrow. But words from hearts however faithful seem utterly feeble. None, however, kind and true, are tender enough. We can only pray Heaven to bless and cheer and strengthen you.

Be assured, dear Mrs. Averell, that with heartfelt sympathy, I am,

Ever faithfully your friend,

J. M.

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[First draft of letter, in note-book]

[Joanna Muir Brown]

[Nov., 1904]

Dear Joama:

We are all very sorry that you have suffered painful and dangerous illness, and glad to know you are better. We all fondly hope with God's blessings that you will soon fully recover and find the new year a happy one for yourself and all your family.

Ever affectionately your brother,

J. M.

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