



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-04-02

Letter from Joanna [Muir Brown] to John Muir, 1913 Apr 2.

Joanna Muir Brown

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2424 Floyd Ave
Richmond Va

My dear brother John:-

I seem to have a
poor supply of writing paper, but I
do not believe it can hinder me from
writing you a letter. For I have
been reading the entire afternoon
your "Incomparable Yosemite"
and I must tell you how much
I like it - while it is still thrilling
me with its music. I have read
the general description of it, the
wonderful winter scene, the earthquake
storms, a good deal about the trees
and flowers; then I went and got
out your other two books to com-
pare your descriptions of the blessed
little water ouzel, and as each one
seemed sweeter than the other, I could
almost say that I like it best of all
your Yosemite treasures, because these
dear birds have cheered you so often

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in your strenuous travels and stern
adventures. I think I know
how the sturdy joyous little fellow
has imparted to you his gladness
for during my long tedious illness
in Virginia when I lay sleepless
night after night, sometimes so
ill that I wondered if I could
endure until morning, a little
mocking bird whose nest was in
a tree outside my window, used
to sing, oh so softly and tenderly
in the earliest dawn of the morning
and while it was yet dark. Maybe
it was singing a lullaby to its
young, but certainly it seemed
to be solely for me, I think
of it always with gratitude and
wonder if the dear bird did not
help to pull me through. -
Well dear John I am charmed with
your book, and thank you a
gain for it. -
We read your article in the

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March number of the Atlantic Monthly and was very glad that Ethel happened onto it. For it is the most and best you have ever written of your early life - almost all of it seemed very familiar to me as I remember nearly all of it. Some of the incidents I remember too well. Will this too come in book form?

Aside from the fact that we are all pretty well, I have nothing cheering to write for Walter has just gone through bankruptcy court, which leaves a pretty heavy burden on the girls, and there can be no provision for old age -

Hoping that you are not too lonely and that you are in good health I must close with love from the girls and myself -

Please do not forget what I once told you: that if ever you needed a sister just to send love

Joanna