



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-08-18

Letter from Annie Hay to John Muir, 1913 Aug 18.

Annie Hay

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P.S. James Murdoch often asks Maggie about you. Prays he will
hear from you soon.

15th Aug. 1913

Westfield
Dunbar

Dear John Muir,

I am writing for dear Maggie to bear to you the sad news that our dear "Auntie Lunan" - her dear mother "passed on" on Friday before dawn (15th) She has been - as you will know a great invalid and helpless for over a year but Dr Black told me she had been exempt from pain to the very end. The funeral took place yesterday when many of the Dunbar people who knew, and loved and respected her followed ~~her~~ all that remained of the dear Auntie Lunan to her body's resting place. Gilbert Hay was able to come to the funeral the only relative - James Murdoch is very frail now and not able to venture so far.

You know that my husband James - is the same age as Auntie Lunan ninety next Dec? She was 90 in Oct and he is in wonderful health in body and mind excepting a stiffness in the and pain in the joints when he moves

He takes an interest in every new movement and can read without glasses.

He had a slight attack of some kind last winter in which for a half hour or so he was not able to articulate - but he soon recovered - Still I have not liked to leave him since then but fortunately when we got word of Auntie's death Mr. & Mrs. Ray & I were staying for a few weeks at Waterloo close to our son Dr. John - who has a home in the Summer Town So I was able to leave him in John's care and come to Maggie for a few days in their time of great sorrow. She is worn out with these long months of nursing and anxiety but she has come up wonderfully although she will feel the loneliness and separation from the dear sweet mother ^{from} whom she has never been separated during all her life.

Some months ago she was fortunate to get a middleaged kind sensible Lady to take the place of the young girls she had always had and this Mrs. Hornby has been a great help and comfort

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although these months when "The Mother" was so helpless. I do trust Maggie will be able to keep her for it is so necessary she should have some kind of companionship during her many solitary hours also she is so subject to bronchial attacks.

Maggie has been telling about a book you have been writing about your younger days - she has not seen it yet but hopes soon to do so and father will be most interested to read it too for many a time he speaks of you and wonders what you are doing & where you are.

Maggie says she will write soon to you & your sisters. Trust you and your dear children are well and happy. How full of interest and wonderful experiences of life has been. I wonder may hope ever to have a visit from you again? If your daughters or their husbands ever think of visiting the Old Country they will be heartily welcomed by us at Newell. With kindest remembrances I am affectionately yours
Annal Hay.