



1864-02-27

1864 Feb 27 JM to friend Emily p1

John Muir

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Fountain Lake Feb^y 27th / 64

Dear friend Emily.

I was really glad to receive your letter, on reading it I think I felt somewhat ashamed or guilty or something of that kind. First came Mrs Newton's letter, bringing news of a paper sent which I did not receive; at least as from her. Then you told me of one of your letters returned you, and the same day received one from Mr Newton, telling me that he also had written one for the dead letter office. But I promise to be more careful in future. With study and labor I have scarcely been at all sensible of the flight of time since I reached home. In my walks to and from my field work and in occasional rambles I of course searched every inch

of ground for botanical specimens,
which preserved in water were ana-
lyzed at night. My task was seldom
completed before twelve or one o'clock.

I was just thinking today that
soon the little anemones would be
peering above ground.

You enquire whether or no I intend
to study medicine. I did intend to
give attention to that branch of science
at Ann Arbor, but my plans have,
for the present, been broken up; I have
by no means however given up all
hope of still finding an opportunity to
pursue this favorite study some other
time.

You speak, Emily, of that feeling
of loneliness which at times weighs upon
you. You have indeed much to cause
grief. I frequently wonder how
you can so well bear up under
so many great trials; we little know
what burdens are prepared for us.
My brother-in-law truly said a few

days ago "John, did we know before hand how much of trouble was in store for us we would be altogether unfitted for the duties of life" - but you must be careful Emily not to cherish your sorrows - This would overcome the strongest -

I have enjoyed the company of my dear relatives very much during this long visit but I shall soon leave them all, and I scarcely think it probable that I shall be blessed with as much of home again.

I had not before heard of the union of Mr Love^{well} with Miss Maggie, I think with you that Maggie will make a very good wife. You tell me that Miss Chafee "still survives" I would rather have heard that she too had "committed matrimony" I am sure that I would very heartily enjoy a familiar chat with her for "auld lang syne" Do you ever hear anything of Mrs Goodrich now? I sent

And to the
 Authors were
 sent a copy
 They have dis-
 tained
 Remember
 me also to
 Mr Wright
 the epistolary
 by the way
 ago
 Goodnight
 May you
 can be pleased
 of mine
 With love
 I shall receive
 your letters
 whenever I
 may wander
 to of ad-
 to Midland

her a very fine present some time
 ago, but have not heard whether
 she ever received it.

It seems strange Emily that you
 did not hear of my arrival in
 Pr du China, as I called twice
 at the Mondell house.

You see how fully I have com-
 plied with the terms of your
 mandate respecting the rhyme.
 I think you will confess yourself
 bound for once the greater part
 of it was composed as well as written
 just a few days ago so that the
 task of correcting and transposing
 will devolve upon yourself.

I think I must now have written
 enough to make up for my long silence
 and if there be soundness in the Roman
 Catholic doctrine of supererogation I
 now have a considerable fund on
 which I can draw in times of future
 delinquency. But I must bid
 Goodbye Remember me to Mr Bell