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Letter from Joanna [Muir Brown] to [John Muir], 1910 Jan 6 .

Joanna Muir Brown

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a letter this morning from Dan and his wife tells us of a fine article in Hollands magazine entitled "John Muir Nature man" which we will endeavor to secure. Your little thrilling story "Shekua" has been most enthusiastically read, by some of our friends, but though it is so intensely interesting it is almost more than I can bear for it throws too strong a light upon your dangers and sufferings, and though it is so long past, it is almost a night mare to me and always makes me want to get my arms about you - it would be great close and do some work, so thanking you for your kindness I am

Affectionately yours
Sister James

Our affairs are the same as when I last wrote you excepting that the cooler weather has brought a little better health

Port Norfolk Va
Jan 6. 1910

Dear brother James:-
Your very kindly greetings and Christmas gift - came safely and I hasten to express my appreciation of both.
I am sorry you are still alone in the big house, for vacant rooms are very sad reminders. Your splendid work, however, in which you are so deeply interested and which so entirely absorbs your mind and time

doubtless caused the days to
 speed by all too quickly
 and who knows but that this
 very loneliness is but a help
 & greater concentration;
 If however, you ever need
 us, let us know and if such
 a thing is possible we will
 come to cheer and assist
 at least for a time -

Our Christmas was brightened
 by Bernice's home coming.
 She has gained in flesh and
 has good color but continues
 her abstemious habits as the
 least indulgence brings on an
 attack with her stomach. She
 cannot eat any sweets or any

acids. It seems a pity that
 she cannot eat fruit as it
 is so healthful. Her trouble
 seems to come in great measure
 from nervousness and yet it
 may be that the trouble causes
 the nervousness. And yet,
 strange to say, to outward appear-
 ances she is the most self con-
 trolled one in the family -
 We were anxious to have her re-
 main with us the rest of the
 winter, but as she had taken
 up work in the school of which
 I told you, she felt in duty
 bound to finish the school term
 and so is again in the mountains,
 leaving Ethel and myself again
 by ourselves -