



[John Muir Correspondence \(PDFs\)](#)

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**Letter(s) from Unidentified to Aunt Mary, 1856 Nov 14, 1856 Dec 1
and Brother 1857 Feb 12**

Unidentified

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Alhambra Valley November 14th

Dear Aunt Mary

as we have not received any letters from you I thought I would write you, and
we are all well and enjoying good health with the exception of a slight cold I want to know the reason you do not
write to us if it is Mr Branch's fault you must make him write. I want to know how you got home with
that sweet baby and if it has been well ever since. Nothing is done on the house since you were here.
The rabbits and chickens are doing well. The fruit trees and vines are shedding their leaves, the figs are ripe and in
their prime. Uncle says you must kiss all the babies for him Johnny says he wants to see the baby and Genny
and pa says you must give ~~all~~ them all plenty of hominy and bacon and mamma says bless that sweet baby and
and take good care of her ma made me a new velvet basque and trimmed it with black ribbon and black buttons
she has not made my new dress that you gave me

Dec. 1st 1856.

Alhambra Valley November 1st

Dear Aunt Mary

D Ma says that we ought not to write to
you until we first receive a letter from you, but I have got Tina waiting
and concludes to write anyhow. We are all well at present. Ma was very sick for
a few days after going with you on the wharf that night, but she is now
better well again. We have never heard a word from you since you left here
and I want to know how you got home with that sweet baby, ^{and if it has} the weather
has been very cold since you were here, the leaves of the fruit trees and vines
are all killed and falling off. There has been some very heavy rains, and the
grass is getting up green everywhere. The figs have all ripened, ^{since you were here} and are now
nearly all gone. My little rabbits are all doing well. I have now about 40 in all.
We have been to town once since you left here. Old Grand Ma Smith has been very
sick, but is now better. Pa took a load of wheat to the mill and got 23 sacks of
the prairie white flour you ever saw. Ma says to tell you she has no trouble
in making light bread now. Pa has got a very fine cow & heifer from Col. Giff.
He paid 105 dollars for them. Ma has made me a black velvet basque
Dear Ma trimmed it with black ribbon and buttons, it fits very pretty. Best

February 12th 1857

My Dear Brother we have received your letter of the 14th December written at Stoney Grove and I need not tell you how much pleasure it has afforded us, for by this letter we are assured of two things, namely, that you have not forgotten us, & that your eyesight is not so much injured as we had feared. Having not received any letters from you before, we had for a long time been fearful that you could not see to write, but I have noticed particular that every word is written strict on the line, and by this I am made to hope that you can see much better than we thought you could and sincerely hope that you may yet be restored to perfect eyesight. You say that Eliza & the children enjoys fine health where you live but that you are sick occasionally yourself. you did not say what kind of sick ness you have nor whether severe or not. we are all in the enjoyment of good health. I still have occasional spells of pain in the side but never severe enough to confine me to bed. We have had some very cold weather this winter. There was considerable rain fell during the fall, but not much since New year. a few days after christmas we had a heavy snow in this valley, which was the most unexpected of anything that has taken place since we came here to live. This was the first snow we had seen since we left home, that is we have seen it often at a distance on the mountains but never in the valleys before. it was a great curiosity to our children. the snow commenced falling about 10 o'clock in the evening & continued on nearly all day & altho' the day was exceedingly cold, they were out in it playing & snowballing nearly the whole time. the next morning we all had a pile of snow of sleeping until the snow melted off. it was about five or six inches deep. this spring is unusually forward, the grass is already high enough to furnish plenty of food for cattle, and the peach trees are putting out and will be in bloom in a few more days. you must take good care of your sheep that must give them plenty of grass & hay. we the camp boys that much care you must keep them children all year here. we camp you to write a letter to you but found he could not write well enough. is now keeping to write now, he writes a book every day. he commenced writing, and is "the mirror of work" and the other is "the big tree" then from a pretty book. the little is "the narrative of the children" & thought we had letters back home. a book called paper the other day, and then thought she has not yet received the book you gave me. she has been writing