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## Letter from Mary Hatch to Mrs. Muir [Louie Strentzel Muir], yyyy Jun 27

Mary Hatch

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Oakland June 27<sup>th</sup>

Dear Lou.

A friend of mine reported to me a conversation between two strangers which she overheard while crossing the Oakland ferry the other day. She chanced to hear a name, which she had often heard me mention, of a certain young lady, & so felt interested in the matter on my behalf. Strange is it - it, this is the second item of the self same character that has come to me in the same way; the other one proved true, will this one? wonder! I await your reply with the greatest possible impatience. To be magnanimous and

relieve my mind immediately. I do think however that you might have let me into the secret yourself & not left me to find it out in such a roundabout way. But I forget, I have not yet told you what it was I heard, & perhaps you may not be able to divine my meaning unless I express it more definitely. I would like just here however to read you a lecture on the absurdity of your trying to keep such a matter a secret from your best friends while all the world and their neighbors are discussing it aboard steamboats & such like crowded places. Don't do it again I beg of you. "But to return to my subject" - The first item of which I spoke was the marriage of Will Cameron

brother which took place several months ago. Alice told me of it the day before the ceremony as a secret. Pshaw! said I, heard that a week ago. She protested that could not be possible as they had known it only a week themselves, & had told no one outside the family. At any rate, said I, I heard it just the same day you did & from an entire stranger to you & all your family. And I did. A lady had overheard her telling it to her cousin on the ferry coming over, & knowing that I was acquainted with the family naturally told me of it. The old story of little birds you know. - The Carrons returned Sunday last - by the way, I've seen them but a moment, shall go & see Alice & get an account of her



trip in a day or two, she looked very tired & we only  
said Welcome home, etc, the evening of their arrival.  
Our folks had a splendid trip, Amanda wrote that  
she was enjoying every moment of it, scenery grand  
etc, as I knew she would. I only wish she had some  
such appreciative person as you or I to help her  
out with her enthusiasm. Father & Vince went with  
her I suppose you know, Mother's heart failed her  
and she staid at home, afraid of hot weather.  
They were all here at Commencement, & you were  
not. Was it the poison oak? I hoped you would  
come, even till the last day. - "But to return  
to my subject" - here I am at the bottom  
of my last page & have not told you what I heard  
yet. Shall I leave it for my next; or take another

shut? Providence admonishes me to the latter  
course, besides my curiosity could not survive  
the interval if yours did. — Well the sum and  
substance of it all was this. A certain lady who  
is famed for taking a friendly interest in all that  
concerns her friends, has made a protégé of a  
certain renowned individual who has studied  
rocks & glaciers (as it is popularly supposed)  
until they have somewhat affected his cardiacal  
region. The tender hearted herself, is naturally op-  
posed to the glacial system so applied, & has  
interested herself to bring him down to the mat-  
rimonial temperature, & had they said, finally  
succeeded with the aid of a young lady of  
Contra Costa, beautiful, accomplished, rich, etc, etc

who was fully capable of melting not only any ordinary glacier, but the primordial rocks themselves. The united opinion of these disinterested gossips was the first mentioned lady was a public benefactor & deserved the thanks of the whole community for her zeal in behalf of science &c, etc, in which opinion I most heartily concur. My interest however unlike theirs is not in the cause of science (although looking at the matter from my standpoint it takes a more interesting phase than from theirs, for while it is very commonly understood that the outward application of heat will melt the most formidable glaciers, the fact that two frozen bodies will attract & each other & by the aid of friction finally amalgamate (is not so generally understood.) But - as I said my in-



street - is not in the cause of science in the present case, but in the scientist, and as I hear him everywhere spoken of in the highest terms of approbation & admiration, I profess the news is "muis" than welcome to me. Now Lou do be a real good sensible girl & come & tell me all about it - wont you? If you will I'll promise to assist in any amount of decoration for the momentous occasion.

I heard the other day of some Martinez people being in San Fran, selecting a fine Juana, was it for the grange? I looked for you a day or two in consequence of that bit of news, thinking of course you were one of the aforementioned persons & hoping you



might-run over. We have had real thawing  
weather here recently, the warmest-spell ever  
known & the longest-I believe, at any rate  
we've had nothing like it-before in my knowledge of  
Oakland, & I really enjoy it. I froze almost-solid  
coming home from your house & remained in  
that state for several days, am quite frisky now.

Give my very best-regards to Father & Mother,  
and hope they are both well & rested by  
this time. Fabe sends kindest remembrances  
to all

Yours Truly  
Mary Hatch.