



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1896-02-12

Letter from Annie Hay to [John Muir], 1896 Feb 12.

Annie Hay

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interesting and if there was any means of making a livelihood you would tell us and also if there might be an opening, & I promised to write to you. Willie is twenty one - he and our James celebrated their majority at the end of last year - He is "not much to look at" but is a smart business fellow and has a strong sense of duty and fidelity.

Now I have told you what I want to say about that and if you will in your kindness of heart try and spare a little time to tell us what you think we shall be so very glad.

Mersey View House
92 Bridge St
Birkenhead
12th Feb. 1896

My dear Cousin,

Father has been speaking ever since Christmas of writing to you and I have no doubt his intentions are honourable but he has been unusually busy and so as I want to ask you something I won't wait but must write while the spirit moves me.

We have had staying with us for eighteen months a young lad whose father and mother were my oldest and dearest friends they are both dead and as he had no relatives he came to live with us, His father was for many years a much esteemed doctor in Lpool - Educated

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in Edinburgh where I knew him as a student. He was one of the most charming characters I have ever met and it has been a great joy to us to be able to share our home with his son. His mother also was a clever and remarkable woman.

Willie Howie has never been very strong but is now fairly healthy and has been for about four years engaged in a Wholesale Ship's Stores concern and as he has no capital he sees no prospect before him but to settle down as a clerk in an office. He has lately been thinking whether it would be better for him to go to Canada with a friend who has been learning

farming there as he says all he wishes or can expect is to make a living to keep himself.

When thinking about him I remembered your telling us about your vine growing and that you can always find work for young men. and Maria also had been thinking about "Our John Muir" and telling Willie that it might be possible that something might be found to suit him if we consulted you. So down comes Willie to father and me who were asleep in our bed to hear what we thought. father thought the climate would be fine and the work

We often often speak about you and wonder if you have been away straggling on the mountains again. & when we look at the photos of your beautiful little Lassies we wonder if we are ever to see them or

their mother. Uncle Hardie has been wonderfully well this winter but is this week rather poorly with cold and dear Aunt Polly is very very frail, her sight has become so very bad too and altogether you would know a great change upon her. Mrs Jeffrey is pretty well & it is a mercy for she has to take care of the others. Father has been kept very busy over the

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Restoration of Dunbar Parish
Church - sometimes I think
he is to be worried beyond
endurance with the bother
however the estimates are all
signed now, and when you come
again you will not know the
interior of the "Auld Kirk."
Auntie Susan & Maggie are
well but you will likely be
hearing from them soon & then.
Our boys and girls are all
well and happy. John has
still gone on successfully
took last summer the "Holt
scholarship" £100 - but he finds
he has to work hard for it in
the dissecting room. He has
got Dr. to his name but is not
finished another exam wanted
for "M. B." He is working very
hard and looks white I
tell him. Jamie is still
devoted to art painting

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pictures and attending the
Art school. Maria is house-
keeper for the last year since
my health failed and
baby - Peppie is now at school
Oh how nice if you were not
so far away and we could
meet (our families) sometimes.

I am wanted to take a little
walk while the sun shines
and so I must close.

There is one to whom distance
is as nothing, and in
His love we rest and
trust. Give my love
to Mr & Mrs Muir and the
dear babies and believe
me your affectionate Cousin
Annie Hay