



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1860-10-14

Letter from David G. Muir to John Muir, 1860 Oct 14

David G. Muir

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Hickory Dale. Oct. 14th 1850.

Dear Brother John

Having received your third letter last night, and knowing now where to direct your letters, I gladly embrace this first opportunity of letting you know that we are all enjoying our usual health, and are glad to learn that you are so well, and have prospered with your machinery. We were very anxious to know where you was going, and are surprised to think that you has gone further west, when from the bottom of our hearts we thought you certainly would have inclined toward civilization. I hear that they have some yarns in in the newspapers about you, but I have not seen any of them yet. Henry Cripp told me more about the fair than you have yet. For a while after you left home, the house looked rather empty, especially on Sundays but now we begin to get used to it.

The neighbors wherever we go, ask about you. I wish I had been at the fair, and I would have helped you to tell the folks about the things. Things about home begin to look like winter, we are busy husking corn, and Jamie Anderson is digging out stumps. I suppose you begin to feel as though you was a man now, (standing on your own bottom) when you have produced the greatest curiosity, and invention of the whole State. Please to heed the advice of a little boy. Don't let the state fair prove to be vanity; neither let the flattery and praise of men lead you to think that you are more than a man but remember where you come from, and where you are going. "Dust thou art and to dust thou shall return."

Prayer meetings have commenced here again, we had the first last Sunday over a Midland & do pray God to send down the Holy Spirit to convince and convert our neighbors.

As we have not been at Portage City lately we have not got your books but expect to get them this week. In your second letter you ^{ANOTHER} mentioned Mrs Mitchell's name, saying that you had told about her before, while you did not tell us a thing about her, so I think you must have forgot. Andrew and Charles Reid are to be examined tomorrow night for teachers by Mr Birdsell and if they get their certificates Andrew is going to teach at Mc Mahon's school ^{Mc Mahon's} and Charles at Russell's. William Conner is going to teach at Graham's again. Now I guess my pile of news is exhausted so I will have to stop and make room for the others. I want you to direct a letter very soon to David G Muir himself so Good Bye
 your brother
 J M

W. H. Day Dale

My Dear Brother

I came over here yesterday. I thought I would put in a few lines to the main thing is to tell you to be sure and write me often if you can spare time; I shall always be very much interested in anything that concerns you tell me all the news mind I hear there has been great excitement about your clocks and I am very glad you are prospering so well ^{and with comfort} ~~where you are~~ I heard your letter last night and was glad to hear you were so well in such a little. I will not write any more just now but I will see and give you a longer letter after I hear from you good bye John

From your very affectionate
 Sister Sarah

Dear John

I too am glad glad to hear of your prosperity but especially that you are so well John I dreamed the other night you and your mill was come back but ah no twas only a dream but John I would not be so selfish I do hope as wish you back when it is better for you to be away

and have often thought of the way I hurried you to bed that night but maybe you will forgive May God bless you my dear dear brother and prosper you and keep you from the evils of this world and meeten you for glory I do not forget you at a throne of grace will you too pray for me and perhaps when you get time you will write me a letter

from your
 His Min

Dear John

I pray you are well in body I ~~think~~ ~~hope~~ ~~trust~~ ~~believe~~ ~~am~~ ~~sure~~ ~~of~~ ~~your~~ ~~spiritual~~ ~~health~~ ~~being~~ ~~good~~. do not let the vanities of this life ~~poison~~ ~~your~~ ~~soul~~. do all to the glory of god & he will prosper you in that which is good keep the faith pray sincerely always aim at the glory of god & good of man. keep humble do not let the praise of men puff you up. nothing but Christ can keep you from drinking take his counsell then strive to please god in all things. be always ready to give me your accounts if you always look to Jesus & give all & follow his spirit you will be safe I am glad that god has provided a way for you, strive always to love your neighbour as your self practically. in order to have friends. we must be friendly. love together love be mercifull that you may have mercy look not at high things but condescend to men of low estate practice economy in all you do in order to be great benefactor of all. avoid pride & the Lord will lift you up. do not think that god will aid you in any ^{thing} that is not ~~good~~.

but the fruits of the spirit is in all goodness. See that all that you do is founded upon Scripture show to all around you that you are a man of honesty & truth. you have much need to watch & pray for all eyes are upon you being a stranger your present character will be made appear according as you think speak & do. in the eye of the public I am praying for you hoping you will see the grace & love pray for me dear John that we may meet at gods right hand with out spot & rejoice for ever together with all the sanctified I will send a trunk with your things by railway as directed to the care of your master. ^{Yours} Wm. from your Father

Dear Brother John I never thought you wanted to go west
 but being you have gone I hope you will ^{write} to me tell me what
 kind of a Shop you have got into what they make what
 you do and how you like it if you have found any leases yet
 if you know how an Artesian Well gets its power if you have
 invented any thing yet how long you mean to stay there
 and all other news you can find we are very busy at present
 I have no time to make any thing I have had a hard
 time with Lumbago this morning but I have about got
~~to sit again~~ ~~so get~~ your letter from Philadelphia they
 just send they had no situation to offer you at present
 Mother says she will write to you as soon as she gets time
 Joanna sends her love to you and so does Mary and Anne
 time is scarce Good bye from your Brother Daniel

[Following 5 letters all written on same sheet of paper]

Hickory Dale, Oct. 14th, 1860.

Dear Brother John:

Having received your third letter last night, and knowing now where to direct your letters, I gladly embrace this first opportunity of letting you know that we are all enjoying our usual health, and are glad to learn that you are so well, and have prospered with your machinery. We were very anxious to know where you were going, and are surprised to think that you have gone further West, when from the bottom of our hearts we thought you certainly would have inclined toward civilization. I hear that they have some yarns in the newspapers about you, but I have not seen any of them yet. Henry Cripps told me more about the fair and yourself than you have yet. For a while after you left home, the house looked rather empty, especially on Sundays, but now we begin to get used to it. The neighbors wherever we go ask about you. I wish I had been at the fair, and I would have helped you to tell the folks about the things, etc. Things about home begin to look like winter. We are busy husking corn, and Jamie Sanderson is digging out stumps. I suppose you begin to feel as though you were a man now, (standing on your own bottom), when you have produced the greatest curiosity and invention of the whole State. Please to hear the advice of a little boy. Don't let the State Fair prove to be 'Vanity Fair', neither let the flattery and praise of men lead you to think that you are more than a man, but remember where you came from, and where you are going, "Dust thou art and to dust thou shall return." Prayer meetings have commenced here again. We had the first last Sunday over at Midland. Do pray God to send down the Holy Spirit to convince and convert our neighbors. As we have not been at Portage City lately we have not got your books, but expect to get them this week. In your second letter you merely mentioned Mrs. Mitchell's name, saying that you had told me about her before, while you did not tell us a thing about her, so I think you must have forgotten. Andrew and Charley Reid are to be examined tomorrow night for teachers by Mr. Birdsall, and if they get their certificate Andrew is going to teach at McManus's school-house and Charlie at Russel's. William Ennis is going to teach at Grahme's again. Now I guess my pile of news is exhausted, so I will have to stop and make room for the others. I want you to direct a letter very soon to David G. Muir himself, so Goodbye,

Your brother,

D[avid] G. M[uir].

My dear Brother:

I came over here yesterday. I thought I would put in a few lines too. The main thing is to tell you to be sure and write me often if you can spare time. I shall always be very much interested in anything that concerns you. Tell me all the news, mind. I hear there has been great excitement about your clocks, and I am very glad you are prospering so well and are so comfortable where you are. I heard your letter last night and was glad to hear you are so well in such a bustle. I will not write any more just now, but I will give you a long letter after I hear from you. Goodbye, John,

From your affectionate sister,

Sarah[Muir Galloway]

Dear John:

I, too, am glad to hear of your prosperity, but especially that you are so well. John, I dreamed the other night you and your mills were come back. But ah no, 'twas only a dream. But, John, I would not be so selfish, I hope, as [to] wish you back when it is better for you to be away, and have often thought of the way I hurried you to bed that night, but maybe you will forgive. May God bless you, my dear, dear brother, and prosper you and keep you from the evils of this world and meet you for glory. I do not forget you at a throne of grace. Will you, too, pray for me? And perhaps when you get time you will write me a letter.

From your Sis Muir [Margaret Reid]

Dear John:

I am glad you are well in body. I should like to hear of your spiritual health being good. Do not let the vanities of this life possess your soul. Do all to the glory of God, and he will prosper you in that which is good. Keep the faith, pray sincerely. Always aim at the glory of God and good of man. Keep humble. Do not let the praise of men puff you up. Nothing but Christ can keep you from sinking. Take his counsel; then strive to please God in all things. Be always ready to give in your account. If you always look to Jesus as your all and follow His spirit you will be safe. I am glad that God has provided a lodging for you. Strive always to love your neighbour as yourself practically. In order to have friends we must be friendly. Love begeth love. Be merciful that you may have mercy.

[Look not at high things but condescend to men of low estate. Practice

[Family letter of Oct. 14, 1860, continued]

economy in all you do, in order to be great be [the] servant of all. Avoid pride, and the Lord will lift you up. Do not think that God will aid you in anything that is not good, but the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness. See that all that you do is founded upon Scripture. Show to all around you that you are a man of honesty and truth. You have much need to watch and pray, for all eyes are upon you. Being a stranger your present character will be made [to] appear according as you think, speak and do in the eyes of the public. I am praying for you, hoping you will use the grace and live. Pray for me, dear John, that we may meet at God's right hand without spot, and rejoice forever together with all the sanctified.

I will send a trunk with your things by railway, as directed, to the care of your master, Mr. Wirad.

From your
Father [Daniel Muir]

Dear Brother John:

I never thought you wanted to go West, but seeing you have gone I hope you will write to me. Tell me what kind of a shop you have got into, what they make, what you do, and how you like it, if you have found any leases yet, if you know how an artesian well gets its power, if you have invented anything yet, how long you mean to stay there, and all other news you can find. We are very busy at present. I have no time to make anything. I have had a hard time with lumbago this morning, but I have about got over it again. We got your letter from Philadelphia. They just said they had no situation to offer you at present. Mother says she will write to you as soon as she gets time. Joanna sends her love to you, and so do Mary and Anne. Time is scarce. Goodbye,

From your brother,
Daniel