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1861-07-17

Letter from Eveline Merrill to John Muir, 1861 Jul 17

Eveline Merrill

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her - that is - she takes a Christian
view of the bereavement - she has tried
to submit without murmuring - I
think the affliction has had a very
softening, happy effect upon both of
them - But Mrs P - in particular I was
a very heavy blow upon them - How my
heart has bled for them - Often have
I wept over the count - You know
John that little Bannin was very dear
to me - But I feel that she has escaped
a world of trouble and is now happy
in Jesus's bosom - and I cannot wish
her back again - Her memory is
embalmed in my heart, and I
hope to meet her in the future world

A letter is just at hand from Mrs
Petton. She is alone just now. Mr P
and Emily are up the river - Emily
will be gone a week - Grandmother is very
too - and the Bessell's have gone home
not to return again, so that Mrs Port

and Miss Chaffe are all the ladies
she has in the house now. Mrs Port's
baby, is a wonder, of course. A new
man is to become the pastor of the
congregational church at the spring
I should think from what Mrs P
told me, when she was here, that he
was a man in whom all would
feel interested. I am so glad they
are to have a good minister, and
good preaching there. We have the
best of preaching over in two weeks
in the little school house near by
and quite a good sabbath school every
sabbath school, with Miss Merrill
for superintendent. Won't you come
and visit the school - and be kind
live in the country? I will teach you
how to make chum, if you do not
know how already. I have been quite
expert at the business. I am glad
you are home, for I know you

(This must have been written in 1862, since Fannie did not die until that year, E.M.W.)

Lone Rock, July 17, 1861. [2?]

Dear friend John,

I thank you very much for your two good long letters. It was in my heart to answer your first one soon after its reception, but I was then indebted to several friends for letters, which of course must first be answered. Other duties then came in and finally Mrs. Pelton came and spent eleven days with me, and while she was here Mr. Pelton came and spent a Sabbath, on his way to Madison, where he expected to see you, but did not find you. Mrs. P. looked very thin and pale, but she improved in health a good deal while here. I enjoyed their visit exceedingly. They both feel little Fannie's death very much, of course. I think Mrs. P. is more reconciled to the bereavement than he -- that is, she takes a Christian view of the bereavement, though he tries to submit without murmuring. I think the affliction has had a very softening happy effect upon both of them, but Mrs. P. in particular. It was a very heavy blow upon them. How my heart has bled for them. Often have I wept over the event. You know, John, that little Fannie was very dear to me, but I feel that she has escaped a world of trouble and is now happy in Jesus' bosom, and I cannot wish her back again. Her memory is embalmed in my heart, and I hope to meet her in the future world.

A letter is just at hand from Mrs. Pelton. She is alone just now. Mr. P. and Emily are up the river. Emily will be gone a week. Grandma is away too, and the Bissells have gone home not to return again, so that Mrs. Post and Miss Chaffe are all the ladies she has in the house now. Mrs. Post's baby is a wonder, of course. Amos Snow is to become the pastor of the Congregational Church at the Prairie. I should think from what Mrs. P. told me, when she was here, that he was a man in whom all would feel interested. I am so glad they are to have a good minister, and good preaching there. We have the best of preaching once in two weeks in the little schoolhouse near by, and quite a good Sabbath School every Sabbath, with Miss Merrill for superintendent. Won't you come and visit the school and see how I live in the country? I will teach you how to make cheese, if you do not know how already. I have become quite expert at the business. I am glad you are home, for I know you are all very, very happy. I know the pleasures of such meetings after a long absence. Would that I could drop in upon you just now, instead of writing, and see "father, and mother, and Maggie, and Sarah". Remember me kindly to them all, and tell them I feel almost acquainted with them, through you. I know I should like them. Perhaps I could "play Maggie" better were I to see her. You know, John, that I did the best I could, under the circumstances. I have had a good visit from my brother at Janesville, and expect him here again in a couple of weeks. He wants me to go home with him, but I shall probably remain here six or eight weeks longer. When I do go, I will replace the book which has given you so much anxiety. I am sorry you have been [to] such trouble about [it] as the loss can be so easily remedied. I am at the bottom of my last page, and will close, hoping you will keep me informed of your whereabouts.

Very truly your friend,

Eveline [Merrill]