



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1866-05-07

Letter from John Muir to Daniel H. Muir, 1866 May 7

John Muir

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follow. They have bought it again but cannot build yet William is working at his trade. I am I left a pocket handkerchief with you. That Mary I sent you some take good care of it - by and send it some way if you can

He tells her that if she will walk in the fields with me she will find that Solomon himself could not talk more wisely about plants than I. ha, ha! He tells me to go and see her without any business but I have some of that slavish fear that you speak of and I don't know whether to visit her or not. I suppose that you are now in the midst of friends & society - while I have not one in all this place. I am I suppose that you two are determined to be a machine maker, how do you prosper with that great one I hope you will help me by your inventions to show all mankind that the scotch are the salt of the earth - and the salt of machines. In any of your notions or undertakings you may all ways depend on my help when you wish it - either in money or otherwise I want you to feel that my purse

is your own and welcome. Here you heard from

Tell me how you get on write soon and your photograph to me & to Walter I want good type from your pen brother

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Indianapolis Ind
May 7th 1866.

Dear Dany

I am still in this great noisy town, but begin to feel more at home. I am in good health, and by doing double work earn on an average about 22 dollars per week, so that I have plenty of money in my pocket. I am getting acquainted with our shop and with my employers, I have just begun to make the model for the patent office, and will now put it through right or wrong. As soon as the clock is disposed of I will begin operations for another.

patent, for I have about made up my mind that it is impossible for me to escape from mechanics. I begin to see and feel that I really have some talent for invention, and I just think that I will turn all my attention that way at once.

I am surprised to find so few real original inventors among workmen in these great shops. we have but one and I am very sure that I can very materially improve his best invention viz a hub lathe.

This town is noted for fever & ague, but I am determined not to leave it until I have made my invention mark. I am now working at making plow handles.

I received letters lately from all of our family nearly and from Henry Butler & his father, and from Emily Petton, and from Chas^d Jay and W. Trout.

I wrote a letter to Mary & Anna full of advice about getting married etc, I hope that like their brother Dan they will not have any clavish fear concerning it. Emily sends me advice as follows. "Stick to your inventions. God did not give you that inventive brain for naught" etc.

Henry B sent his photograph and a letter written by himself. His father, Prof^r Butler sent me quite a note, together with a letter of introduction to a lady Miss of this town in high life.