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1867-05-02

## Letter from John Muir to Jeanne C. Carr, 1867 May 2

John Muir

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You only of my friends  
congratulated me on my  
happiness in having avoided  
the misery & mud of March  
but for the serious part  
of your letter - the kind of  
life which our plant friends  
have, and their relation to  
us, I do not know what  
to think of it - I must write  
of this some other time

In this first walk I  
found *Eigertia* which has  
is ever first, and sweet  
little violets, and *Sanguinaria*,  
and *Saxifraga* too, and  
*Thalictrum Anemoneoides*  
were almost ready to venture  
their faces to the sky.

The red maple was in full  
flower glory, the leaves be-  
low, & the nodules were bright  
with its fallen scarlet blossoms,  
and the elm too was in  
flower & the earliest willows  
all this where your fields had  
secured the memory of a flower  
left in them.

I will not try to tell you how  
much I enjoyed in this walk of the  
four weeks in bed. You careful  
at-

00410

#10.

2d. 6 1/2

Ind May 7th

Dear friend Mrs Carr

I am sorry &  
surprised to hear of the  
cruel fate of your plants,

I have never seen so  
happy flowers in any other  
home; - they lived with you  
so cheerfully & confidently,  
and felt so sure of receiving  
from you sympathy and  
tenderness in all their sorrows.

How could they grow  
cold & colder and die  
without - your knowing -  
they must have called you  
Could any bedroom be  
so remote that you could not  
hear - I am very sorry,  
Mrs Carr, for you & for them,  
can your loss be repaired

I have been gossiping  
among the flowers a good  
deal lately, Our trees are now  
in leaf but the leaves  
as Mrs Browning would say  
are 'aunce long enough for  
wearing', The dear little  
concoction <sup>spring</sup> masses have  
elevated their caparules on  
their smooth shining shafts,  
and stand side by side in  
full stature, & full fashion,  
every ornament & covering  
carefully numbered and painted  
& sculptured as were those  
of their Adams & Eves; every  
coil perfectly plaited, and  
drawn far enough down,  
- every hood with the proper  
dainty slant - their fashions  
never changing because

will not other flowers lose  
 confidence in you and  
 live like those of other  
 people, sickly and wretched,  
 half in half out of the body.  
 No snow fell here  
 Easter evening, but a few  
 wet flakes are falling here  
 and there today.

I thank you for sending  
 the prophecy of that lovable  
 naturalist of yours, - it is  
 indeed a pleasant one, but  
 my faith concerning its  
 complete fulfillment is  
 weak, I do not know who  
 your other doctor is, but I am  
 sure that when in the  
 Snake Valley and following  
 the Pacific coast - I would  
 obtain a great deal of geology  
 from Doctor Carr, and from  
 yourself I find I should

'with the secret of many a  
 weeds plain heart'  
 I am overestimated by your  
 friend - he places me in com-  
 pany far too honorable, but  
 if we meet in the fields  
 of the enemy south I shall  
 certainly speak to him.

Tell him Mrs. Carr in  
 your next - how thankful  
 I am for his sympathy  
 he is one who can sym-  
 pathize in full, I feel  
 sorry for his like misfortune  
 and am indebted to him  
 through you for many  
 good and noble thoughts.

A little messenger  
 met me with your letter  
 of Apr 8<sup>th</sup> when I was on my  
 way to the woods for the  
 first time, I read it upon  
 a moss clad fallen tree



ever best

Tell Ellie that I would  
be very glad to have him  
send me an Anemone  
memorandum and A. Kuttalrami  
May do not come here,  
I wish he & Henry could  
visit me on Saturdays as  
they used to do

The poor eye is much better  
I could read a letter with  
it; I believe that sight is  
increasing, I have nearly  
an eye each a half left.

I feel if possible  
more anxious to travel  
than ever.

I read a description of the  
Go Scrive valley last year  
and have thought of it most  
every day since, You know  
my tastes better than anyone  
else. I am most gratefully  
John W. W. W.