



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1885-10-13

Letter from Sarah [Muir Galloway] to Dan[iel H. Muir], 1885 Oct 13.

Sarah Muir Galloway

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Portage Wis. Oct 13th / 85 -

Dear brother Sam -

Harriet was here last night and told me that if you said if I could only tell you my symptoms as near as possible that you felt sure you could give me something to help me. I have had this trouble with my side so long that I have been thinking there was no help for me, for I think that all the nervous misery and pain that I have endured must have been brought on in the first place by the heart, or whatever it may have been that caused me to break down so utterly when I was a girl. whether or not I have had trouble since then. The pain is in the left side, a little forward and just at the waist, it is better at sometimes than other but is never well. there is often a good deal of rattling back and forward about the place

sometimes I think it seems like wind, and sometimes it seems like some liquid, but there is no enlargement, there is a great deal of throbbing, sometimes on the spot, sometimes forward and lower, but always somewhere on that side. it sometimes seems as if there were a raw sore inside, causing a burning pain, and when worse than usual spreads both up and down ^{and round to my back} causing a feeling of helplessness in the whole side, from my fingers to my toes; a year ago when I was so terribly overdone my side was so bad that I could not walk through the floor without holding on to things as I passed and would quite lame, and then I am so very nervous and stupid. it is only at times that it is so very bad, still I have had to spend a good deal of time in bed this summer and drag about a good deal more. walking is one of the things I cannot indulge in so that I am much confined to the house it always makes my side worse. sometimes causes a little steering down, when my side is bad, my kidneys are often affected and my heart at times seems to beat very irregularly. but I suppose that is from weakness. I hope

been troubled very much from sleeplessness
but lately I have been doing better most of the
time. A wet cloth often soothes my side
and I sometimes use mustard. I have
also used Belladonna plaster on my side
and back. just now my appetite
is usually pretty good.

I do not know whether there is any
thing more I can tell you, you can ask
me questions. I shall be thankful for any
suggestion and will be glad to hear
from you.

(Ch: How glad we were to know
that so many of the family were
gathered together at Kansas City train
and be with Father for a time again.
it must have been a great comfort for
him to see you all again, and now he
is at rest, his life work done. One by one
the dear ones are leaving us. how glad
I should have been to see him once
more. Mother felt that she could not
endure the journey and all the
excitement, and so John has

come and gone again, we had
a grand visit, and I am sure
you all had in Feb. I hope he
will be improved in health,
and go home feeling as much
better as Mary & I had I were
after our visit to California.

David tells me how well you
are looking, I am glad you have
so fully regained your health.

Emma and the children too are
well. Mary left us this morning
she is quite delighted to think
she is going home feeling so much
better and stronger. Mother
wishes to be remembered to you
all, she is as well as usual.

Anna is teaching school again
Celia and Grace are well.

Give my love to Emma and the
children. Affectionately

Sarah.