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1896-03-06

Letter from Henry F. Osborn to John Muir, 1896 Mar 6.

Henry F. Osborn

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it seems to me you must present your evidence in the strongest manner bringing forward every fact - which you gave me while you were engaged in my conversion - besides every other fact - But I have not time to write all I have in mind upon this matter -

You have probably seen my dear mother en route for Japan - for she was surely intending to call upon you. We are all bright and well here - My wife is ever my better half, with inexhaustible stories of good old Scotch energy, enthusiasm and pugnacity - which made

[1]

Sunday, March 8th 1896.

850 MADISON AVENUE.

My dear Mr Muir - You have been frequently in our minds and hearts since our grand trip together - and upon the 'explorer's' panel of my library I have your picture - taken by Perry upon the Glacier - but two events recently have brought you prominently forward - the first is a visit from John Burroughs last Tuesday - the second is my reading Russell's "Glaciers of North America" last evening. Mr Burroughs, we met for the first time and found him very simple and charming - and full of your visit to him. He joins me in

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[2]

Wiggling you to take your pen in hand and let the world enjoy some of the good things you have seen in the world-making - or the 'great show' as you like to call it. Probably no other other plea will have much weight with you - than this - do as you would be done by - take out the note-books and let all of us enjoy them. Russell's book is a silent appeal in the same direction - it is very interesting because he brings so many facts together - but it is singularly lacking in originality - I can hardly understand how a man can have seen

[3]

so much and dared so much - and have given birth to not a single new hypothesis or induction (so far as I can judge from one reading). Can you? I see that he is very, very cautious - especially as regards the bodily movement of ice-masses and the sculpture power of ice masses. Upon both - but chiefly upon the latter you must have much to say - Is not the travelling of morainal matter steadily downward sufficient disproof of the rotation theory ✓ and sufficient demonstration of the direct forward motion theory - versus the viscous - As regards sculpture

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Mrs Osborne

[4]

850 MADISON AVENUE.

You find in her a kindred spirit - She was greatly pleased with your letter to her. Virginia and Perry are in the mid-winter vacation of school. I take one, perhaps both, West with me but not so far as California. I have in mind a trip to the Grand Cañon of the Yellowstone - do you think you could meet us there?

Another friend of yours I have seen several times is Prof. Sargent of Harvard - and this reminds me that your journey has come

grand

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fruit in Cleveland's new Reserve.
How little we Eastern people
know the West - was my thought
upon observing the slight attention
paid to this splendid stroke for
the preservation - of - the Western
Glories.

Johnson too, I have seen frequent-
ly. He is not in very vigorous
health - his life is I fear too seden-
tary for his constitution. But his
Cerebral cortex seems to be allright
for he has produced a fine poem
upon Webster - as a Senator
not yet published - but now

whipping into good shape.

Well the little Ed. squirrels and the big trees.
are waiting for you at Wing - and Wing - when ever
you can come and see them. And in New York a
big library full of books - and a very warm
welcome in either home - from Mrs Osborn, my-
self and all the children - Ever

Faithfully Yours
Henry F. Osborn

[6]

850 Madison Avenue,
Sunday, March 6th, 1896.

My dear Mr. Muir,

You have been frequently in our minds and hearts since our grand trip together -- and upon the 'explorers' ' panel of my library I have your picture taken by Perry upon the Glacier. But two events recently have brought you prominently forward -- the first is a visit from John Burroughs last Tuesday, the second is my reading Russell's "Glaciers of North America" last evening. Mr. Burroughs, we met for the first time and found him very simple and charming, and full of your visit to him. He joins me in urging you to take your pen in hand and let the world enjoy some of the good things you have seen in the world-making, or the 'great show' as you like to call it. Probably no other plea will have much weight with you, than this -- do as you would be done by, take out the note-books and let all of us enjoy them. Russell's book is a silent appeal in the same direction - it is very interesting because he brings so many facts together, but it is singularly lacking in originality. I can hardly understand how a man can have seen so much and dared so much, and have given birth to not a single new hypothesis or induction (so far as I can judge from one reading). Can you? I see that he is very, very cautious -- especially as regards the bodily movement of ice-masses and the sculpture power of ice masses. Upon both, but chiefly upon the latter you must have much to say. Is not the travelling of morainal matter steadily downward sufficient disproof of the rotation theory, and sufficient demonstration of the direct forward motion theory - versus the biscayes(?)As regards sculpture it seems to me you must present your evidence in the strongest manner, bringing forward every fact which you gave me while you were engaged in my conversion, besides every other fact. But I have not time to write all I have in mind upon this matter.

You have probably seen my dear mother en route for Japan, for she was surely intending to call upon you. We are all bright and well here. My wife is ever my better half, with inexhaustible stores of good old Scotch energy, enthusiasm and pugnacity, which made you find in her a kindred spirit. She was greatly pleased with your letter to her. Virginia and Perry are in the mid-winter session of school. I take one, perhaps both, West with me, but not as far as California. I have in mind a trip to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Do you think you could meet us there?

Another friend of yours I have seen several times is Prof. Sargent of Harvard, and this reminds me that your journey has borne grand fruit in Cleveland's new reserves. How little we eastern people know the West, was my thought upon observing the slight attention paid to this splendid stroke for the preservation of the western glories.

Johnson, too, I have seen frequently. He is not in very vigorous health, his life is, I fear, too sedentary for his constitution. But his cerebral cortex seems to be all right, for he has produced a fine poem upon Webster as a senator, not yet published, but worth whipping into good shape.

Well the little red squirrels and the big trees are waiting for you at Wing and Wing, whenever you can come and see them. And in New York a big library full of books, and a very warm welcome in either home from Mrs. Osborn, myself and all the children.

Ever faithfully yours,

Henry F. Osborn.

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