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Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1896 Apr 24.

John Muir

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(48)

Martinez, Apr. 24, 1896

My dear Johnson:

I had a letter from Sargent today saying he was about to start to Washington to organize the Forestry commission, - that the appropriation had passed the House but was still hung up in the Senate. He did not however feel any great anxiety about it.

Senator Perkins replied to my letter that he was in full sympathy with us in the commission & would gladly do all in his power to secure the end desired. So all looks rosy & I'm glad.

I'm going to the glaciers about St Elias, Prince Williams Sound, & Cooks Inlet in about a month from this date. Dont you want to go? The Calluses will be in bloom by the time we get there, & few of them are so tangly as those of Tuolumne. And then the crystal prairies with the sun on them & the mountains looking down!! Come on & I will

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lend down the barbed panax horridas
out of your way - & shoo the Elias
bears. Contemplate these blessings & come.

Governor Budd is going ravagely into
Yosemite matters on the slimy trail of
Irish — the ways he likes Commissioner
Fields personally but will not reappoint
him until he finds out whether or no
he has been used as a tool by Irish

Examiner

REFORM IN THE YOSEMITE.

Governor Budd has found a popular line of work in attacking the special privileges in the Yosemite. The condition of that mountain paradise, held in trust by California for the lovers of beauty of the nation and of the world, is a scandal to the State and its people. The whole valley, whose superb vistas would raise the mind of a Piute above his daily grasshoppers to lofty thoughts, is a nest of petty jobbery. Every law passed for the preservation of its natural beauties, and for the protection and comfort of visitors, has been broken. The contrast between the squalid maltreatment of the central valley and the superb condition of the National Park surrounding it, which is kept in order by Federal troops, has led to the Eastern agitation for the retrocession of the Yosemite from California to the United States. Unless we experience a revival, not only of State pride but of State conscience, that may be the best thing we can do.

lady whose last

"I remember that Governor [illegible] once sent me a commission as Yosemite Commissioner. I looked it over and then sat down and wrote him a letter, thanking him for his courtesy, but declining the office. I told him that I had found upon investigation that the Yosemite Commission was composed of gentlemen who went upon a junketing trip to the valley at the expense of the State once a year, and that the rest of the time John P. Irish ran the Commission. I declined to accept office in such a body. True, I have been Colonel and [illegible] of the militia [illegible]

Gen. Barnes

I think the proposed railroad from
Merced to the foot of the Yosemite will be
built owing to the wonderful revival of
mining about Coulterville Bower Shoebend &
Mariposa Grant. What do you say about right of
way through the park? Ever Yours John Muir

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