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## Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1896 May 4.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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May 4, 1896.

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.  
R. U. JOHNSON,  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.  
C. C. BUEL,  
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Mr. John Muir,  
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Muir,

I thank you very much for your recent letters and for the extracts in regard to the railroad into the valley. It seems to me that it would be a great mistake to have the railroad traverse any portion of the National Park, and I should therefore very strongly oppose any bill or other attempt to take it within the limits of the Park. The moment the railroad gets into the Park, good-bye to the peace, wildness and security of the reservation. There is no reason why it should not stop at the border. It seems to me that this is a thing for the Sierra Club to take up and discuss, <sup>with the</sup> ~~with the~~ <sup>Boone and Crockett Club</sup> ~~Boone and Crockett Club~~ <sup>of Wash. D.C.</sup> ~~Boone and Crockett Club~~ which has defended the Yellowstone Park against <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ railroad <sup>run.</sup> ~~run. If the Perkins bill should pass, it would mean injury not only to the Yosemite but to the Yellowstone.~~

I thank you very much for your invitation to go up to Alaska. Nothing would give me greater pleasure, but I fear it is out of the question this year. Gilder does not return until the first of July, and there are other reasons why I could not undertake a long trip at this time. By the way, why do you go

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so soon? Miss Scidmore tells me that the climate is fine up there until November. Would it not be possible for you to postpone your departure until the middle of July and come East ~~the~~ first and pay us a visit? It would give me a great deal of pleasure to see you again, and your friends here are always inquiring about you. Only recently Professor Osborne, John Burroughs, Mrs. Barney and Mrs. Fields have asked me when you were coming. It would give Tesla great pleasure to see you too.

Always sincerely yours,

R. H. Johnson.

Tell Mrs. Minis that among our friends are Podewski and his pupil Miss Szymarska. We had a delightful evening with them recently.

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