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1896-05-01

Letter from [Louie Strentzel Muir] to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, [ca. 1896 May].

Louie Strentzel Muir

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~~country for ten thousand years~~
~~& then~~ making American trees & people & angels
~~would be~~ happy -
And now do write him an
encouraging letter especially
about the Harvard ceremonies
& tell him he can go east
& still be in time to see his
ice rivers after the snow
is melted from their deadly
crevasses. Also throw out
hints abouts other books he
ought to write -
I think it will be impossible to
get him to give up his northern
trip for when he makes up his
mind to go anywhere he always
goes but it may well be shortened
& so much gained.

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4-13

that the eastern scholars & Harvard people
in particular were always friendly to him
& were the first to say kind encouraging
about his work when he was pursuing his
~~when he was a wild nobody~~
wild solitary life in the woods & sky mountains
~~in the woods~~ But you must tell me
particularly about the ceremonies connected with the
honorary degree. If a
formal speech is required I fear he
will bolt like a frightened wild animal.
When he meets professors & college
Presidents in an informal way he
takes all the talk to himself &
lectures them cooly with an air of
superior knowledge ~~as if they were~~
~~only boys at the beginning of their~~
~~studies~~, but the slightest formality
in the way of ceremony frightens
him & makes him dumb -
If any one can drag him to
Harvard you can. He most
sincerely admires you. He has
said to me over & over again that
only Johnson could have fought the
Copyright fight to a successful end
& only Johnson could get govern-
-ment protection for the forests against general
~~Gods trees in the Sierra. He should~~
selfishness & apathy
~~be President of our big hopeful~~

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(Copied from fragment marked Y-13)

making American trees and people and angels happy.

And now do write him an encouraging letter especially about the Harvard ceremonies and tell him he can go East and still be in time to see his ice rivers after the snow is melted from their deadly crevasses. Also throw out hints about other books he ought to write.

I think it will be impossible to get him to give up his northern trip, for when he makes up his mind to go anywhere he always goes, but it may well be shortened and so much gained.

that the eastern scholars and Harvard people in particular were always friendly to him and were the first to say kind encouraging words about his work when he was pursuing his wild solitary life in the (a wild nobody in the woods) woods and high mountains. But you must tell me particularly about the ceremonies connected with the honorary degree. If a formal speech is required I fear he will bolt like a frightened wild animal. When he meets professors and college Presidents in an informal way he takes all the talk to himself and lectures them coolly with an air of superior knowledge, but the slightest formality in the way (as if they were only boys at the beginning of their studies) of ceremony frightens him dumb.

If anyone can drag him to Harvard you can. He most sincerely admires you. He has said to me over and over again that only Johnson could have fought the Copyright fight to a successful end, and only Johnson could get government protection for the forests (God's trees in the Sierra) against general selfishness and apathy. (He should be President of our big hopeful)

(The above is written in Muir's handwriting, and appears to be composed by him, inasmuch as certain lines have been crossed out. These are copied and enclosed in parenthesis marks. The letter is evidently one written, or intended to be written by some friend of Muir, to Robert Underwood Johnson)

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