



1891-02-19

## Letter from Harry Fielding Reid to John Muir, 1891 Feb 19.

Harry Fielding Reid

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CLEVELAND, O. Feb 19, 1891

My dear Prof. Minin,

I have been at  
work all the winter, giving all  
the time I could to preparing  
a report of my last summer's  
observations. My map is finished,  
my photographs are now being  
printed and I am writing out  
my report, which I hope will  
soon be completed. Prof. Wright  
has sent me a photograph which  
he took of the ice front in 1886,  
from a point some two thousand  
feet above it. It shows the great

central point, he has figured in his map, projecting about a quarter mile beyond the sides; so we shall have to concede considerable changes in the form of the ice front; in fact & after you left us last summer, the ice of the eastern part of the front fell away so rapidly that it produced a deep bay about a quarter mile deep. But what is more interesting still; on comparing Prof.

Night's photograph with my map, I find that the ice-front has receded about

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CLEVELAND, O.

a thousand yards in the last four years. This brings up another point: Capt. Canoll made several soundings last summer. Unfortunately failed to record them; but as I remember, the first was some two or three hundred yards from the ice and showed a depth of 680 ft. The second was quite near the ice and showed 720 ft. Now as all this space was covered by the ice four years ago, this difference of level, 40 ft, could not

could not be caused by sedimentary deposit since then; therefore there must be a depression in the bed of the glacier, which would be a lake basin if above the level of the sea. This lake basin, however, may not be in solid rock, but may be in glacial till, <sup>+ present a rising front</sup> just as the present ~~wings~~ deposits under the wings of the glacier. If you have or can get me the actual soundings and just how far from the ice front they were made, I shall be greatly obliged. I shall soon be able to send you some photographs.

Yours truly,  
Harry Fielding Reid.