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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. Muir,

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.

Wright'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, just as the present wings deposits under the wings of the glacier. If you have or can get me the actual sounding 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.

47 Reid

Yours truly,  
Harry Fielding Reid.

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