



1891-05-13

## Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1891 May 13.

John Muir

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Martinez May 13. 91

My dear Mr Johnson.

I took up the Kings River Yosemite last fall, & in looking over my old notes found that it would be well to make another trip to get more exact measurements of heights. The present condition of the flora & I had set the day for starting but my father-in-law's illness prevented. & since his death in October I have been very busy & heavily care-laden. I am still able to write well but of course I must huddle through the article I promised in some way. I mean to set out on another excursion to the Kings

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River Yosemite of the South Fork in a day or two for the measurements I want & also for the purpose of getting the scales & burrs of business rubbed off & soaked off in the brush & rocks & winds of that glorious wilderness. Robinson says he will go with me if I pay expenses & I mean to take him in case more illustrations should be required. He is now re-drawing my 3 sketches I sent him.

I am going to San Francisco this morning & will get the best map I can & will draw the boundaries of proposed new park. On the west it should join the new Kings R. Sequoia park. This map I shall send you tomorrow.

I have not yet found out  
whether Gov. Markham was  
influenced by the Yosemite ring  
in withholding his approval  
of the free road bill or simply  
by general economy.

Robinson would I guess  
make a better timber agent  
than Mackenzie. M. I fear  
would drink too much.

Public opinion here is  
I am sure generally in favor  
of the resumption of the Yo-  
semitic by the Government.  
Only Pix & Irish would oppose  
for still John P.

Irish he  
Says let Yosemite-Valley be  
Or else you'll catch the devil  
Or me  
But who the devil say the people  
So he

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Count me in the Defense  
Association. Armas will  
try to start a branch here  
But Californians generally  
care very little about Yosemite  
& forest parks.

I greatly admire the  
fighting spirit & pluck  
displayed in carrying my  
through the Copyright Bill.  
& heartily congratulate you.

Your verses in the Last  
Century are very good, far  
the best thing I have seen  
of yours. A perfect gem  
in expression holding a  
grand idea.

Wish I could visit  
you & your park &  
your Century. Train time  
& I must run. Ever cordially  
yours John Muir