



1891-10-20

## Letter from John Muir to [Harry Fielding] Reid, 1891 Oct 20.

John Muir

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(Original in possession of Prof. Harry Fielding Reid)

Martinez, Oct. 20, 1891.

My dear Prof. Reid:

Yours from Atlantic City came a week or two ago. I am very truly obliged to you for the fine set of pictures so suggestive of the good icy days in Glacier Bay, and I hope you will let me know how I can repay your kindness now or at any time. I saw Captain Carroll in San Francisco a few days ago and brought him up sharply hard a starboard and made him give up all his icy news. He says that the ice is jambed in the bay still more closely than last year and that the Muir Glacier has receded a hundred feet or more since we were there. Can you give me or Cap. Carroll your bearings so as to determine the rate of recession approximately from year to year. I looked over my notes carefully after returning home and found that the ground we were encamped on was covered with ice and that the stream near camp had no free existence 12 years ago. My camp was on the moraine near those old stumps in the vicinity of one of your stations across the camp stream half a mile from our last summer's camp - which then was as near the ice as I could possibly find dry ground.

The ice in Granite Canyon and also in two other canyons to the S.E. ward pitches down just as it does toward the big lake and Wolf Valley and all the moraines which now seem lost are stationary -- indicating that formerly during a period of greater glacial abundance the ice flowed towards Glacier Bay, though in the case of the big Wolf Valley where I had my adventure with your crazy cook the water drainage is the other way. This will account for the moraines now stretching from Glacier Bay to Wolf Lake and the other smaller lakes over the wasting portion of the main glacier.

My Sierra article will be out in the September Century. I am anxious to see your report. Remember me to Mrs. Reid and all the chimney builders.

Ever yours,

JOHN MUIR

(Envelope addressed to Professor Harry Fielding Reid, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio.)