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Letter from James D[avie] Butler to John Muir, 1892 Apr 21.

James Davie Butler

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Madison, April 21, 1892.

John Muir, Esq.

My dear Friend.

It is too long since I have heard a syllable from you. - Let it not be longer. I give you a leaf of my life, and if I get not one of yours - shall know you have forgot - yourself.

Angels must have had charge over me or I could never have survived while swinging round the circle and from Equator to mid-night sun. I have written you that Agnes joined me in London where we spent six weeks and seven in rural Britain.

The two girls and I have been all winter one trio here. - the boys and their Mother another at Superior. In both groups has been health. - and we have daily "embraced from the ends of opposed winds". - A few articles in The Nation - have been all my publications. - Have treated in our Club "Cities of the Great Mogul", and lectured in University on "Round the world". But I have been mainly a book worm in the same Library you must remember - in my house and in the Capitol.

I fear you never saw Shaw's garden in St. Louis. He gave the city more than 5 millions and 40 years of work. - It is will ordains an annual Banquet to cost \$1000. - As I know him more familiarly than most I am to speak May 19 on a toast to his memory. - My hope is to have a genial time.

Yet my purpose ^{was} on first getting home never more to emerge from my hermitage. Still "even in the ashes live the wonted fires" - Who knows what I may do? If I ever travel again I will see more of California. - and wear out my welcome with you. Nothing south of New Almaden have I seen. -

Two years ago I would have lingered there but could not ^{have} believed I had started to girdle the globe till the Pacific rolled behind me. -

Why don't you come and see us? Tell me of your household - where will you be through the summer?

So dweller on my street has dwelt here so long as I - but I try to keep in touch with the new comers. - with the young and hopeful I would feel so too. Yrs James D. Butler.

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