



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1892-09-27

**Letter from John W. Noble to R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson ,
1892 Sep 27.**

John W. Noble

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United States, if the land over which it is laid out is kept for park purposes, or if sold, to the owners of the land through which the road runs, a copy of which act I likewise enclose.

"3d. I am informed by Mr. Charles D. Robinson, writing from the Yosemite valley on July 11th, that the Yosemite Commission had just then let the contract to A. H. Washburne to 'underbrush' the valley for \$3,000. in other words, to carry out the scheme which Mr. Olmstead said if carried out would be 'a calamity to the civilized world?'"

The original park having been ceded to the State of California and being governed by a board of commissioners appointed by the Governor of that State, is so far remote from this department that I have very little knowledge of the doings of the commission, either by way of letting the contract to remove the underbrush, or in the general management thereof. It is probably true that local influence has led the commission into making the contract which you deem disastrous to the natural resources of the park.

The moral influence of the general government might be used to stay the proposed devastation, but if the contract is let, it is probably too late to accomplish anything in that direction.

but I am having investigation made as to the facts and will write when the report comes in.

very respectfully yours,

John W. Noble,

Secretary.

R. U. Johnson, Esq.,
Union Square, New York.

06412