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Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1893 Feb 3.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

February 3rd, 1893.

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.
R. U. JOHNSON,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
C. C. BUEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

My dear Muir:-

Your interesting letter of the 13th of January went to my heart.

I am very sorry to hear of your children's illness, and unite with you in gratitude for their recovery. They are at the perilous age of little folks. Mine, at twelve and fourteen, seem to have struck a long period of good health, and are growing up like weeds,

I am glad to see that Californians seem at last to be aroused, if not organized, in favor of recession. It strikes me that the most important thing to do is to push the matter to a vote, even if you are defeated, because then we can say, in going to Congress hereafter, that the Legislature has had the matter presented to it and has refused to do the right thing; whereas, if it never came to a vote we could hardly say this.

I am urging upon Secretary Noble, first, that he should not fail to get his report to the Senate printed so that we can have it as ammunition, and second, that he push for the new park on the King's River, which I think would go through with little effort. I have written ^{on both topics} to the Chairman of the

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J.M.Z.

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House Committee on Public Lands, who was a member of the Committee when the Yosemite National Park was made.

Irish is writing vulgar letters to Mr. Gilder on the pretense that we are not fair in omitting to print Markham's white-washing report, confessedly the work of a person who does not know anything about landscape gardening.

I am very much complimented by the attention you have given my book in your letter, and by the number of lines which you find worthy of comment. As to the "candle-light" which you say I should not have introduced, bear in mind that candle-light there is only intended as a time of day. I do not mean to indicate that nothing but candles are used in the house which is the scene of "The Winter Hour", as you will see later on where I speak of "soft lights that fall through opal glass". I have many letters from poets, and a good many favorable notices of the book, but nothing has pleased me more than your cordial approval.

I thank you very sincerely for this, and also for your care in sending me the Yosemite materials, of which I am keeping a file for future use, so nothing is thrown away on me. I do not easily give up a cause in which I have once

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enlisted, and I know how important it is to have ammunition at hand at the right time. So please keep me informed and let me know when the bill is introduced and what progress it is having, even if you only write me brief notes. You ought to have a delegation to go to Sacramento and urge the matter upon the Legislature.

Faithfully yours,

R. U. Johnson.

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