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Letter from Elliott McAllister to R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson, 1893 Feb 12.

Elliott McAllister

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February 12th 1893

P. U. Johnson Esq
% The Century Magazine
Union Square - New York.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 6th Inst reached me last evening. Immediately upon its receipt I wrote Mr. Muir of my readiness to present the matter to the Legislature in some form and recommend a resolution requesting Congress to appoint a Committee to confer with the State Commissioners during this Summer - It is probably too late to be able to bring up this question in any other form as the Session is already half over & I doubt the advisability of attempting any more determined action than such a resolution.

The Fresno people have through their Senator, introduced a resolution before the Senate, to urge Congress to pass Caminetti's bill changing the boundaries of the Yosemite reservation. I am watching this resolution carefully so that when it comes up for action, I can have it sent into Committee. Caminetti himself, in a conference on the subject last Fall in

my office, was willing to amend his bill in a more material manner. So that with such a basis, I feel sure of defeating the resolution. The suggestion that I shall offer to Mr Muir, is to incorporate into this Fresno resolution an amendment that the Congressional Committee consider the question of the settlers' rights in the S.W. corner of the present reservation, & of recession. —

The present Yosemite Commission has shown more readiness to do something than former ones, & the Governor is willing to give them an opportunity; so that just at this moment favorable action could hardly be expected. And between this and the next Session of '95, a proper agitation of the matter may be undertaken. —

Very truly yours

Elison McAllister.

I have been doubtful as to the advisability of recession, until I read in the Commissioners report a recommendation of an electric searchlight at Glacier Point. —