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Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1893 Feb 21.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

February 21st, 1893.

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

John Muir, Esq.
Martinez, California.

Dear Mr. Muir:-

I thank you for your letter of the 14th inclosing
Mr. McAllister's.

I do not care three straws on what basis the Yosemite
is receded if only it be receded. I think it would be better
to recede it on general principles rather than to go into the
scandal; but one thing must be clearly understood,- that if
it is not receded at the present session of your Legislature,
I shall have a Congressional investigation set on foot at
the extra session, and thus the scandal will be transferred
from Sacramento to Washington. The idea of waiting two more
years for public opinion to be worked up, with the chances of
another white-washing report at the end of it, does not ap-
peal to me.

Robinson and Mackenzie seem to be working together, but
I fear you have all left the introduction of your bill too
late, so that you have no rallying point. As I have said all
along, nothing can take the place of the actual introduction
of the bill. Nobody can say whether or not he is for or

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J.M.2.

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against recession until the bill is introduced. I have had too much experience to make a mistake about this. A campaign never begins until a bill is introduced.

Glory halleluia! The Secretary of the Interior is carrying out his great measures of forest preservation, and has already proclaimed the Sierra reservation from the Yosemite National Park south to the end of the Sierra, also the two big reservations of the mountains from Los Angeles to San Bernardino, also Mt. Rainier and a million acres about it, and also, on my suggestion, the country contiguous to the Grand Cañon of Colorado. I suppose the next thing to do is to have the Sierra reserved north of the Yosemite National Park.. *With the Sierra Club take the lead. I am already advocating it - in the April Century.*

I think, now that Irish is continuing his abuse of Noble, that you fellows ought to be able to lay him out with the argument that Noble has done the greatest thing that could be done by the government for the State of California.

You of course know that this whole policy has grown out of your three articles printed in "The Century", which in turn grew out of our talk by the camp-fire on the upper Tuolumne. Of course I had no idea that Noble was going to

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do so much, but the suggestion back of all these reservations
was your own.

The art of being a statesman is
to see what is wrong and then go
to work to remedy it.

Good luck to the Recession-
ists!

Always faithfully yours
R. U. Johnson,

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