



1875-05-04

## Letter from [John Muir] to [Jeanne C.] Carr, 1875 May 4.

John Muir

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### Recommended Citation

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1419 Taylor St  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 1875

Dear Mrs Carr -

Here I am safe in  
the arms of Daddy Sweet - home  
again from Ley Shasta & richer than  
ever in dead river gravel & in snowstorms  
& snow. The upper end of the main  
Sacramento valley is entirely covered with  
ancient river drift & I wandered over  
many square miles of it. In every place  
I could hear the sounds of running water.  
The whole deposit is a poem whose many  
books & chapters form the Geological  
Vedas of our glorious state.  
I discovered a new species of hail on the  
summit of Shasta & experienced one  
of the most beautiful & most violent  
snow storms imaginable.

I would have been with you ere  
this to tell you about it & to give you  
some likes & pine tussels that I brought  
for you & Mrs. McChesney & Ina Coolbrith  
but Alack! I am battered & scarred  
like a log that has come down the  
Tustumne in flood-time & I am  
also lame with frost nipping. Nothing  
serious however & I will be well & better  
than before in a few days -

I was caught in a violent snow storm  
& held upon the summit of the mountain  
all night in my shirt sleeves. The intense  
cold & the want of food & sleep made the fire  
of life smoulder & burn low. Nevertheless in  
company with another <sup>strong</sup> mountaineer I broke  
through six miles of frosty snow down into  
the timber & reached fire & food & sleep, & am  
better than ever with all the valuable  
experiences. Altogether I have had a very  
instruction & delightful trip.

The big picture of your mountain scene, among the  
lakes & will probably be back ere long. -  
I was too lame to dig it out for you  
I'll be over in a few days or so