



1875-11-25

Letter from W. H. Pulsifer to [John Muir], 1875 Nov 25.

W. H. Pulsifer

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1837 Kennett Place
St Louis Nov 25/75.

My dear Sir;

I have read with much interest your article in Nov^r Harper's on "The living Glaciers of California", and am tempted to inquire if you have printed your views upon the causes which led to the formation of the Yosemite valley - I understand you attribute that wonderful excavation to glacial action -

I visited that interesting locality last year and having previously made myself acquainted with the theories

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of Prof. Whitney and other geologists I was troubled to find that a personal examination forced me to reject them entirely -

I can easily see the great difficulties of the glacial theory, but I am not enough acquainted with the country to the S.W. to be able to say that it is entirely inadmissible as many geologists insist -

The whole of the Sierra Nevada appears to me to present such striking evidence of tremendous glacial action in numerous moraines and wonderfully water worn beds of old glacial rivers, seen in the now deserted mining flats, that I shall require more evidence than I have yet met with to induce me

to lay aside impressions formed upon a (perhaps cursory) examination of the country

If you have previously published anything upon the subject I shall be under great obligation if you will inform me when I can find it -

Pardon me for troubling you and believe me, my dear Sir,

Yrs. truly,
W. H. Pulsifer