



1876-02-21

Letter from [John Muir] to [William C. Hendricks], 1876 Feb 21.

John Muir

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1419 Taylor St - S. F.
Feb 21st 1876

Dear Senator -

Keith has just handed me
your last letter. I am glad you so promptly
& effectively enlightened the darkness of the Know-
Union regarding the Landscapes - Your action in the
matter manifested genuine kindness & magnanimity -
Mr Goodyear called on

Mr Swett today & informed him that he thought
his bill would be favorably reported upon &
passed, provided you would withdraw yours.
He therefore requested Mr Swett to tell me that
if I would assist him in getting his bill through,
he would give me any position on the Survey
that I might choose, that was within his power
to grant, provided he was appointed State Geologist

Mr Goodyear did not come direct to me & I
have never spoken five minutes with him on
the subject - but since talking the matter over
with you I have seen nothing to change

my views. I devoutly disbelieve in the methods
of the old survey as a whole. & I cannot see
how the new survey ^{of Goodwin} is to differ from the old
therefore of course I can have nothing to do with
it in any capacity.

It will be time enough to publish Whitney's volumes
as soon as it appears that they are of sufficient
value. For example the volume on economic
geology ought not to be published until the
entire question of mining in all its bearings be
carefully studied. If the varied mass of material
accumulated by the old survey is valuable let it
be sorted out & made use of in the reports of
the new survey according to the fresh lights brought
to bear upon it through the medium of fresh
facts. Reports of progress should be made through
the newspapers together with useful facts as soon
as discovered, but the final reports in the shape
of expensive vols should be withheld until the subjects
treated in them are understood. The truth is that
Prof. Whitney appeared in person before the last Legislature
asking an appropriation for the publication of his materials now
he makes the same demands through Mr. Goodwin.