



1877-11-29

Letter from John Bidwell to John Muir, 1877 Nov 29.

John Bidwell

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Chico, Nov 29. 1877

Dear Mr Muir

Your P. Card dated "Sequoia Woods
on Kings River, Oct 21st," has just come by
tonight's mail! Must have gone via
Shasta & Lassen to Mt Hood and back,
or some other longer way round!

By this time you must of course
have returned to civilization. To
write you fully, I have not time - to
do justice to your inimitable letter from
Sacramento (about a week after your
departure) would be impossible! What
did finally become of "Snag Jumper"?

I never did before allow any man to
leave Chico with quite so bad an out-
fit! Supposing that you had directed
my "naval constructor" just how to
do, I gave the matter no thought whatever,
and never saw the nondescript till

we reached the river! The very sight
of it caused me go down into my boots -
and I still go deeper and deeper every
time I think of it! Mrs. Bidwell is very
well, and we are rejoiced to hear from
you. Miss Sallie left for the East
Oct. 16th; visiting (by way of episode)
Lake Tahoe and Virginia City and
down to the 1900 foot level in the mines!
Mrs. Bidwell went as far on the way
as Battle Mountain. Sister reached
home safely of course - 1207 N Street,
Wash. D.C. - For days after your de-
parture from Rancho Chico there was
one thought uppermost - one unvarying
question! Where was Mr. Muir? No
matter what question I asked, it would
be answered by another, "Where do you
think Mr. Muir is?" "Am afraid he is
drowned." And the inquiries still go
on with unabated anxiety. So you

will learn that you are not
forgotten, nor soon likely to be
at Rancho Chico - or Washington.

Since your embarkation, we
have made a good road to the river
at a point lower down, but it is
to be extended up to that famous point.

Please let us have a few lines
as soon as convenient, to assure us
of your safety and whereabouts, and
when we may expect to see you at
Rancho Chico, - and believe me,
Mrs. Bidwell joining in warmest
regards, ever and

Very Truly Yours
John Bidwell

John Muir Esq
Scientific Explorer &c