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Letter from Sallie J. Kennedy to John Muir, 1878 Jan 24.

Sallie J. Kennedy

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at this little pile of treasures gives me.

How strange and still how pleasant to think of your having gone to Lake Tahoe so soon after we left it.

How exquisitely beautiful it is; Did you ever before see such contrasting color in the same sheet of water? and even the quality of the water appeared different, from water usually.

Yes I have read Walden.

What shall I say; 'Vexed one minute - enchanted the next'; I was seldom thrown into sympathy with Thoreau.

Do you recall his Chapter on "Sounds and Solitude" - These were my favorite parts of the book. I am afraid to give you my thoughts about them for they would be crude, and probably not give you pleasure.

Now what shall I say

Washington, Jan'y 24th 1878.

My dear Mr. Muir.

A few days since your welcome letter came and I was very happy to receive it. I had begun to think your precious studies had driven every other object from mind.

I have wished many times you could be here during this week to meet your two valued friends Dr. Gray, and Prof. Butler, and there is another whom you may not remember so well.

But who retains the warmest recollection of meeting you in Yosemite Valley in '69. General Abner.

General A. brought Prof. Butler, to see us one evening this week and we attended a lecture which he delivered badly named

"Flash," but a most substantial as well as bright composition. On Sunday the three gentlemen are to dine with us.

Dr Gray and I went to Prof Hayden's rooms this morning and enjoyed two hours very much!

Seeing Dr Gray and talking with him carried me so vividly back to our Summer excursion so charming.

Mt. Shasta in all its surpassing grandeur - that loveliest of all the little steams we saw with its mass covered way - but I must not begin or I will not know where to end.

I was so glad to know of your work and pleasure after you left Sacramento. What a glorious time you had! I have traced as far as possible your course - have imagined as far as my limited power would permit - you for in coming upon the

the grand Sequoia - from pleasure in Kings River Yosemite - then into the canon of Middle Fork &c. &c.

Could we ever have gone over the same taking our time? A bit of a scolding would have been a good thing for you - for doing such hard work with so little care for physical need.

It is well storms do come.

I have the most precious little bracket which holds my beautiful Annabell's cone, some acorns, a number of smaller cones, among them the "baby cone" I got - the day you said I was like some thing "horrid in a barrel," Remember, ? and you never said you were sorry;

Then around this I have the lovely autumn leaves - maples - you gathered on that day of all beautiful forest days. It is wonderful the happiness a glance

hope it be moved as safely or as good condition as was no 1.

I hope Annie will be in San Francisco before long and you will see her.

Write me when you feel like it. I know if it will be a bore.

Your friend

Lottie J. Kennedy.

I have written of our visit to Tahoe & Virginia but think Annie must have written you.

Have not told you how I enjoyed the remainder of the journey by my self. Sat-day after day on the rear platform drinking the beauties of sky and land.

of your article on your darling Willie Cusel; I cannot help saying what I feel about it - that in it there is a Heavenly brightness.

Not only is knowledge increased - your darling Cusel raised to the warmest spot in ones heart - but one is filled with positively holy joy as one reads and is made to long for purer and better things in life.

So thank too that I should have seen this dear little bird;

Do you remember our Camp near I think the McCloud? It was there Annie and I first saw the little bird.

Then do you recall Landts? - on his Lake - but we saw it longer and nearer at the River - its motions and heard its sweet little note. We remarked at the time its apparent tameness for

it flew very close to us, and alighted near us. And its dipping motion amused us very much.

Your descriptions of the theons and water falls are full of life and beauty. The drawings or cuts are excellent.

I enjoyed your "Cloud Patterns" very much - came across a second appearance of it after coming home.

Some time will you send me some figures in regard to Guidor Bone.

One little place in Walden recalled your return by the Lake the lovely Sabbath evening after your days work among the lava beds, &c.

But I must not write too long a letter. Am not quite ready to stop tho'. I have finished Lyndalls Forms of Water, and was sorry not to have read it before and so better

have understood your evidences of glacial movements or formations. My next book will be Baines Hugh Miller.

Weeks and weeks ago a friend brought me a pamphlet called "Nature with some things of Sir Gray's on Sir J. Harker and an article by Sir Joseph.

I immediately sent for three copies and was promised them in six weeks - and they are not yet here. So if you receive one you may know the cause of delay.

I am glad you have pleasant memories of Chico. The place to me, with so many associations is a dear one.

I trust you will enjoy the winter with its busy indoor hours.

For my own amusement I sat down to work this morning. I have no 3; will send it by mail and