



1878-02-13

## Letter from John Muir to [Annie Kennedy] Bidwell, 1878 Feb 13.

John Muir

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1419 Taylor St - S. F.  
Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1878

Dear Mrs Bidwell.

Your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> ult - is received. I see by Sallie's note that our estimate of Prof G's was a pretty correct one. But I will not make any further use of Gray's exposure of him. For however pernicious & deplorable the effects of unfaithful teaching, it is best opposed & controverted by a patient presentation of the truth, rather than by pursuing & giving battle to individual humbugs. Life is too short to waste in hunting such poor game. The boundaries of the humbug field are being steadily contracted by increase of light, & cones of truth have nothing to fear.

Your sister sent me a birchbark canoe through the post office. She calls it Jumper No 3. It came laden with flowers & altogether forms one of the damtiest conceits you ever saw.

Here is a photograph from a negative taken a year ago. Watkins made me sit for another negative, & I will send you a copy from it in a week or two.

I am going to see Tahoe & its snowy shores this week. I want a run on snowshoes & a bath in the keen chaste beauty of that fountain water. Will probably go up Saturday & stay a week or ten days. What do you think of that?

With warm regards to the General  
I am ever cordially Yrs  
John Muir.