



1878-04-06

Letter from B. Buchanan Hepburn to John Muir, 1878 Apr 6.

B. Buchanan Hepburn

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On Board Albatross
April 6th 1848

My dear Menz.

I was so sorry to leave
San Francisco without seeing you
again but the last few days were
such busy ones that I had some
difficulty in getting through all my
business. The Ship Company kindly
delayed the departure of the steamer
for nine hours so as to enable me
to get the Tahiti mail as I
expected Kees to do. Kees himself
got out of his way in time but had
one of his men killed and another

wounded - the whole loss amounted
to \$85.00 - The Apaches attacked
them about noon and the fighting
lasted till sundown by which time
all the mules had stampeded. It
is really a serious loss in many ways
than me as it will throw the whole
work back and give me an
increase of trouble. We have had
most singular weather; at this
period of the year it never rains in
Lower California but this afternoon
an unusually heavy rain set in
accompanied by squalls and this
appears no immediate prospects

of its clearing up. I have plenty
of work in store for me for some
months to come and I shall be
thankful indeed when I see all
the machinery on the spot and the
men started to work and still
more so when I am beginning to
send the proceeds of the balloon
to Scotland. I really hope you
will keep a Mexican trip in view
but as soon as I get up to the Sierra
Madres and am able to judge more
definitely as to the future prospects
I will write you again. All through
the district I am in you could

20 am at work ^{without danger} and I might be
able to make a trip with you as far
as the Yosemite Valley. I spoke about it
I am sure all that portion of the
country would interest you very much.
If you should change your plans
in any way or wander far from
California I hope you will let
me know. So trusting we may
meet before long. Believe me

Very truly y^r

Wm. Chas. Adams

On Board Newhern,
April 6th, 1878.

My dear Muir:

I was so sorry to leave San Francisco without seeing you again, but the last few days were such busy ones that I had some difficulty in getting through all my business. The ship company kindly delayed the departure of the steamer for three hours so as to enable me to get the Fort Yuma mail, as I expected Kerr's letter. Kerr himself got out of the fray unhurt, but had one of his men killed and another wounded -- the whole loss amounted to \$8500. The Apaches attacked them about noon and the firing lasted till sundown, by which time all the mules had stampeded. It is rather a serious loss in more ways than one, as it will throw the whole work back and give me an infinity of trouble.

We have had most singular weather; at this period of the year it never rains in Lower California, but this afternoon an excessively heavy rain set in, accompanied by squalls and there appears no immediate prospects of its clearing up. I have plenty of work in store for me for some months to come, and I shall be thankful indeed when I see all the machinery on the spot and the mill started to work, and still more so when I am beginning to send the proceeds of the bullion to Scotland. I really hope you will keep a Mexican trip in view, but as soon as I get up to the Sierra Madres and am able to judge more definitely as to the future prospects I will write you again. All through the district I am in you could roam at will without danger, and I might be able to make a trip with you as far as the Yosemite Valley I spoke about. I am sure all that portion of the country would interest you very much. If you should change your plans in any way or wander far from California I hope you will let me know.

So trusting we may meet before long, believe me,

Very truly yours,

B. Buchanan Hepburn

[On folder Muir has written, "Lord Hepburn, Killed in Mexico or Lower Cal?"]