



1878-07-24

Letter from J[ohn] Strentzel to John Muir, 1878 Jul 24.

John Strentzel

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July 24, 1878

Abram 24/7/78.

Friend Muir

Poison Witch

Must be head-centre of the de-
sert gardens, those delightful
places where exuberant nature
exhausts itself on the Mountain
Pine & Sage brush. However it is
consoling to know that your ideal
can smooth over the barren torridness
of that region, raising only the
beauty of nature upon salient
points. As for the fine brick flavor
of Nevada pears, when I see before
me juicy luscious peaches jacketed
with cream & sugar I am a
little doubtful about a cynicism
that could continually prefer

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the wilderness to the smoother
loveliness about the habitations of
men. At any rate I would risk
the trial and send you some speci-
mens of high culture, were it
not for the fact that California
Peaches are apt to resent the
slightest delay in appreciation,
but later, in grape season, if you
should be near the P.P. let
me know and I will mail a
package of best Tokays and Alex-
andrias for your free judgment.

I hope the Feb. letter won't
get your scalps down nor the
torrid days with icy cold nights
exhaust your marrow-bones to
be preyed upon by the Rheumatism,
but will spare your activity
for preservation until a more
promising soil will allow the

bringing forth of commensurate
fruit.

Write us often to remove our
Anxiety over your unprotected
state for our imagination can
picture only tarantulas, rattling
"Smalls" and digger Indians
as accomplices of that
ferocious alkali desert encircling
you.

Truly yours
J. Sturges