



1878-08-28

Letter from John Muir to Strentzel [Family], 1878 Aug 28.

John Muir

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Incamp near Belmont Nevada
Aug. 28th 1878-

Dear Strutzels.

I sent you a note from Austin. Thence we traveled southward down the Big Smoky valley, crossing & recrossing it between the Logyabet Toiyama ranges, the dominating summits of which we ascended. Thence still southward towards Death Valley to Lone Mountain thence northward to this little mining town -

From the summit of a huge volcanic table mountain in the Toiyama range I observed a truly glorious spectacle - a dozen Nevada "Cloud bursts" falling at once while we were cordially pelted with hail the falling water, cloud drapery, thunder tones, lightning, & tranquil blue sky windows between made one of the most impressive pictures I ever beheld - One of these cloudbursts fell upon Austin, another upon Eureka. But still more glorious to me was the big significant fact I found here fresh telling glacial phenomena - a whole series. Moraines, rocky mountains, glacial sculptures & even feeble specimens of glacial meadows & glacial lakes, I also observed less manifest glaciation on several other ranges. I have long guessed that this Great Basin was loaded with ice during the last cold period but the rocks are so unresisting & the water spouts, to which all the ranges have been exposed have not simply obscured the glacial descriptions here but nearly buried & obliterated them, so that only the skilled

Tomorrow we will start for the White Pine region. Our short address given for fifteen days will be Hamilton Nevada. Can call A. F. Rodgers

