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1878-09-11

Letter from John Muir to [Annie Kennedy] Bidwell, 1878 Sep 11.

John Muir

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Hamilton, Nevada.

September 11<sup>th</sup> 1882.

Dear Mrs. Radwell,

Bidwell Papers  
Bancroft Library

I was refreshed & delighted by your longer, brighter, hearty letter, so full of real sympathy, & friendly interest, for all of which I must thank you before I write another line. & next I hasten to congratulate you on your happiness in having your name associated with so interesting a little wild flower. As soon as I saw it, before reading your account of it I said, "This *bonnie* *nee* *polygammum* must be new". He is indeed a neat & jolly little fellow, though not belonging to the very first families of Flora's Kingdom. His near relatives, the *Eriogonums*, are developed in great beauty & abundance throughout the plains & mountain ranges of this vast region. You must indeed study botany. You cannot yield your heart, & God's precious plant-people too unreservedly. Your opportunities are excellent. With so clear & whole-souled & far-seeing a soul as Gray to cheer you on, & so fine a field at home, & in the near mountains. You must go ahead

+ the further you go the greater will be your joy. Every creature belonging to God when lovingly studied leads up to himself along a way that ever becomes more & more brilliantly lighted; & no terrestrial way is more delightful to human feet than flowers. Never mind very much about your plants being new. They are all new, & every one of them is full of God. Think what hosts of new friends you will make among these handsome people of God & how they will lighten & brighten & enrich your life. Go on, go on, & see how they will extend your vision.

This is the center of the Great White Pine mining excitement. No less than 28,000 claims were made, only 15 of which are now worked, & of these only one - the Eberhardt - gives much hope or money. Hamilton & Treasure City are silent now.

but Nature's work goes on gloriously. Our course from here lies southward along the White Pine Range, about eighty miles. Thence eastward to the Snake Range & on across Utah. Our address will be Hamilton Nevada until the end of the month, having made arrangements to have our letters forwarded from here.

When home mind be very beautiful with it, fresh & flowing. That ground magnificent old fir tree -  
 "Nestor" under a pine in his life is taken with meaning in his resurrection land, with more thanks & love ever  
 Can be seen, you find John White