



1878-09-11

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

John Muir

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Hamilton, Canada.

September 11th 1872.

Dear Mrs. Bidwell,

Bidwell Papers
Bancroft Library

I was refreshed & delighted by your longer, brighter, heartier 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 *banisteri* *polysperma* 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
 those handsome people of God & how they will
 lighten & brighten & enrich your life. So on,
 so 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
 Over come from here his southward along the White
 Pine Range, about eighty miles. Thence eastward to
 the Snake Range & on across Utah. Our address will
 be Hamilton Canada until the end of the month, having
 made arrangements to have our letters forwarded from here.
 Heartly regards to the General

When home much to be very beautiful with its pink & yellow. That ground magnificent all the time -
 "Western under a pine or big tree" is taken with meaning in this connection (and) with more thanks & love ever
 Can be seen, you know John W. W.