



1879-01-15

## Letter from S. E. Wells to John Muir, 1879 Jan 15.

S. E. Wells

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

---

### Recommended Citation

Wells, S. E., "Letter from S. E. Wells to John Muir, 1879 Jan 15." (1879). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 458.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/458>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Correspondence 1856-1914 at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [mgibney@pacific.edu](mailto:mgibney@pacific.edu).

Elizabeth N. New Jersey  
Wed. Jan 15th. 1879.

John Muir.

Sir.

For more than twenty  
five years, as opportunity offered, I have as-  
ked returned Californians, the name of a  
plant found in the Prayer Book of a relative  
who died at Sacramento -

Having made your acquaintance through the  
fresh, poetic & instructive articles in "Scribner".  
I take the liberty to send a leaf & imperfect  
description of the flower, - which is perhaps un-  
necessary - and must be very meagre, having  
been pressed so many years, & fastened on paper.  
<sup>Stem woody - leaves irregular.</sup>

Calyx, probably three leaved. Corolla three  
petalled - more than two inches in length, with

00825

their own distinctive tones? Have often listened - but without coming to  
any conclusion. Trusting you will excuse the intrusion -  
I am respectfully & eagerly  
S. E. Webb.  
441 West Levey St.

longitudinal veins - Calyx nearly half the  
length of Corolla, both of a reddish brown -  
My uncle went "around the Horn" or rather  
through the Straits of Magellan in '49 -  
having a very quick passage, they were not likely  
to put in at any port - from which I infer the  
plant belongs to California -

Of a complete outfit, all that ever came home  
was his Bible, Prayer Book, & a very coarse, dirty  
cloth, a quantity of pebbles, about the size of  
resembling beans, <sup>many</sup> all colors, but <sup>none</sup> white, & a  
perfect arrow head - small - white & almost trans-  
lucent - I mention this, as there may be some  
connection between the two - so far as location is  
concerned - for in the short, rough life of a miner,  
there might not come many moods, in which he  
would give his time to the careful pressing of a  
flower, or the selection of curious stones -

Smoking in the tree tops, during a gale, was  
the dream of my youth - therefore the more  
enjoyed as the experience of another -  
So other trees, than Bones & Frances, have