



1879-02-17

## Letter from John Muir to [Annie Kennedy] Bidwell, 1879 Feb 17.

John Muir

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### Recommended Citation

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920 Valencia St.,  
San Francisco,  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1879.

Dear Mrs Bidwell.

I have no distinct memory of the incident that has given you so much uneasiness. So you see how unfounded it was.

I was sorry to have missed seeing the General. I went out to your friends on Ellis St to find out where he was stopping, & then hastened to the Occidental, but he had returned to Chico the day before.

As to the cordial invitation to your pretty home I can only assure you both that I warmly appreciate your kindness & will make use of it without reserve whenever fate or the wind or Providence pushes me to Chico. I usually

Have found an outburst of bloom there will be about your home when the spring & sunshine is warm. & what is rising from the dead in the dry levels east of your house among the gillies & nemophilas & daisies.

Go ahead with your botany, & make your floral key. While your free summer days last.

Remember me to the General. I will see you when ever I can.

Cordially your friend,  
John Muir.



Mrs General Bidwell.

Chico.

Butte County,  
California.

stop whenever I chance to find myself  
in any place at all congenial.  
It seems strange to myself that I have  
not been back to Chico since my  
first delightful visit. I am sure  
I never left a place with more  
regret - the vine-tangled creek - the  
noble oaks - the sunny flowery  
levels - & congenial friends. But  
you know as I told you I am  
pulled with ropes, driven with  
whips, & ridden with witches or  
guardian angels, so that I never  
can forecast my own movements.  
It is now more than ten years  
since I saw my mother & sisters.

Hooten sent me a valuable  
book on geology, also two of his addresses  
before the Royal Society, of which for  
the last four years he was president.  
One of the pamphlets is on the dis-  
tribution of the North American flora,  
the other an address delivered at the

annual meeting of the Society,  
both very interesting.

Have had letters lately from  
your sister & Henry.

There was a very touching incident  
you relate on the occasion of  
your little friend's visit to her  
mother's grave. Joy & grief seems  
mysteriously blended in many  
lives. & the suffering that is in the  
world is hard to understand,  
but whatever our knowledge of the  
ways of God may be, it however  
clearly & surely the wildflowers  
on the lee speak out his love.

I have settled for the winter  
at 920 Valencia St. with my friend  
Mr Upham, of Payot-Upham & Co,  
booksellers. Am comfortable but  
not very fruitful thus far. Reading  
more than writing.

Mr John Allen.

R. Feb. 17th 1879

Copied by R. L.

June - 1917.