



1879-05-17

Letter from Annie K[ennedy] Bidwell to John Muir, 1879 May 17.

Annie Kennedy Bidwell

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ful knowledge of names of flowers
so generously provided me by Dr
Gray. When you come up I will
show you my collection of plants
and the results of Dr Gray's labor,
in supplying me with their names.

My heart bows in grateful reverence
to Dr Gray for his patience, gener-
osity, and loving kindness in this
work.

But I must say adieu,
thanking you for your pleasant
letter & hoping your Summer's
work may be as pleasant and
profitable as in the past.

Truly Your Friend
Annie K. Bidwell

OVERS

Rancho Chico
May 17th 1879

Dear Mr Muir.

Your favor in
reply to the flowers sent from Can-
on, was duly received, and now I
will explain how I happened to
reply to your letter by these si-
lent messengers.

I wrote you at
that time, intending to enclose a
few flowers, but after depositing
the few specimens in cotton and
envelope, I concluded to look over
my letter, and when that was
done I said to myself, "this is ~~too~~
on too high a key. Mr Muir
will think I am trying to tan-

talize him, or if he does not think that, he will think me beside myself, and as he will not come and see it (the creek, Cañon and all the letter painted in the picture), while it is in its beauty, I had better not say anything about it." So I thrust the letter into my portfolio, & sealed up the flowers and off they went, without even an introduction! Only two needed an introduction, and as tonight I found the said letter in my portfolio I concluded to send it for the sake of my namesake, & "*Odontostomum Hartwegii*," as your reply indicated you did not know that they were especially interesting

to Mr Gray from one standpoint, and to me from another. You have doubtless seen the flowers, as they were not new to you, but I think you would be interested to know that they are in demand by Mr Gray, who desires seeds, bulbs & plants thereof. Could you have some in April you would have felt as though the heavenly land had been set down to earth. If it were not for the fear of seeming boastfully & would make a grand riot of fragrant & lovely flowers which carpeted the earth at that time in this famed spot. But I must be modest and not display my wonders.

Rancho Chico, May 17th, 1879.

Dear Mr. Muir:

Your favor in reply to the flowers sent from Canyon was duly received, and now I will explain how I happened to reply to your letter by these silent messengers. I wrote you at that time, intending to enclose a few flowers, but after depositing the few specimens in cotton and envelope, I concluded to look over my letter, and when that was done I said to myself, "this is on too high a key. Mr. Muir will think I am trying to tantalize him, or if he does not think that, he will think me beside myself, and as he will not come and see it (the creek, canyon and all the letter painted in the picture) while it is in its beauty, I had better not say anything about it." So I thrust the letter into my portfolio, and sealed up the flowers and off they went, without even an introduction! Only two needed an introduction, and as tonight I found the said letter in my portfolio I concluded to send it for the sake of my namesake and "Odontostaphyle Hartwegii," as your reply indicated you did not know they were especially interesting to Dr. Gray from one standpoint, and to me from another. You have doubtless seen the flowers, so they were not new to you, but I know you would be interested to know that they are in demand by Dr. Gray, who desires seeds, bulbs and plants thereof.

Could you have come in April you would have felt as though the heavenly land had been let down to earth. If it were not for the fear of seeming pomposity I would make a grand list of fragrant and lovely flowers which carpeted the earth at that time in this favored spot. But I must be modest and not display my wonderful knowledge of names of flowers so generously provided me by Dr. Gray. When you come up I will shew you my collection of plants and the result of Dr. Gray's labor, in supplying me with their names. My heart bows in grateful reverence to Dr. Gray for his patience, generosity, and loving kindness in this work.

But I must say adieu, thanking you for your pleasant letter, and hoping your summer's work may be as pleasant and profitable as in the past.

Truly your friend,

Annie K[ennedy] Bidwell