



1879-08-02

## Letter from J[ohn] Strentzel to John Muir, 1879 Aug 2.

John Strentzel

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Alhambra 8/2 79.

Friend Muir,

Since you left us, I too have had my share of "the blues" of the deepest dye, my mind running upon last wills & testaments & - but after a patient trial of the hygienic agency of caloric with liberal doses of oat bran for sustenance, the overburdened lungs have resumed their normal action so far as their abnormal state will permit.

How I might have fared if left down in the mist

of that smoky conglomeration of dwelling boxes with its facilities of drug-shops and doctors is quite another thing. - so I say a poor place you are in for concocting snags & Cookies from Mountain meal & Sequoia Syrup. Nothing short of some square miles of kitchen with unlimited brose garden can keep up your culinary genius in perfection - but as your apprenticeship can not yet be broken, next best, your bodily demand shall be confronted with a box of spring "Nentorno."

We are exceedingly glad to hear of your little Helen's <sup>swift</sup> recovery, as so many precious flowers have recently cruelly been removed from the reach of



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loving friends.

Our Alhambra Hills look  
yet ashy - nearly every morning  
a white mantle covers the  
slopes of the Valley -  
but the efforts of sunshine  
begin to get recognized and if  
that long wished for rain  
comes down, by the end of the  
month the heights will be covered  
with gladness, with confidence  
of a new round of life - so I hope  
you will not fail to come over  
and study nature under the aspect  
of resurrection from the glacial  
cover unto the budding spirit  
of Life

All are well & remember you  
kindly.

Truly yours

J. Strenzel