



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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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 midst

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  
Sugar. 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 con-  
fronted with a box of spring  
"Newtorro."

We are exceedingly glad to hear  
of your little Helen's <sup>swift</sup> recovery,  
as so many precious flowers  
have recently cruelly been re-  
moved 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 our love & remember you  
kindly. Truly yours

J. Strenzel