



1879-10-09

Letter from Louie Strentzel to [John Muir], 1879 Oct 9.

Louie Strentzel

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October 9, 1879.

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O Friend Beloved, if ever
the dear Lord leads you out
from the depths of those blue
glacier caves, and will let me
once more look upon your face,
that I may know you are
not become only a white
wraith of the northland—there
will be no happier woman
than I in all the wide world.
Then I can rejoice with you
in all the marvelous wonder and
wildness with which your soul
has been thrilled for the summer
time of this new year.

But now! remembering you

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wrote that even you could not in your dreams forget those dangerous ways! I can only think with shivering dread, and pray for the merciful care of God over you.

This morning when I began to answer your letter from the northern midnight, I had no thought that it also would be finished at midnight, and in Oakland, but so it is. Word came that my former teacher Mrs. Colby, who has been dangerously ill, was much worse to day, and I brought mother down to see her, but have not heard to night.

I was in the State Grange meeting until eleven o'clock, yet feel too restless for sleep, and besides, we must cross to San Francisco early in

the morning, while the Victoria steamer leaves at noon, - so I can send to you only this poor note for remembrance. And after all, perhaps it will never reach you, for Fate seems to have willed only punishment for me because I was not patient.

This last time, your letters came while I was at Mrs. Upham's, and I did not know until too late for the "California." All very pleasant at 920 Valencia. Bennie and I are very good friends. - Little Helen is well.

Papa said yesterday, to tell you that he believed "Alaska berries are just nothing to compare with Alhambra, Corinth and Alexandrias in October."

Mother is still quite unwell, but is gaining strength with the cool weather and more time for rest.

Good night, Louise