



1880-02-14

Letter from Moses Woolson to John Muir, 1880 Feb 14.

Moses Woolson

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Heaven! When I read your account
of Alaska, don't I wish I were
there to gaze upon those world
wonders with you? What a book,
you will have when it is done
Poetry, Science & Aesthetics in
one commendable bulk! I know
you will build yourself up a
"monument more durable than brass
or Horace says

When I was a boy and studied Geography,
how lonely, far-off seemed California.
It seemed the ultima Thule of the
world. There was not a town put down
upon the map. And still more
lonely seemed the region of Alaska,
then not named thus. I remember
a line in Campbell's "Pleasures of Hope"
thus:

The wolf's long howl on Donalask's shore
None on the world has it. That far-off distant
region is brought home to our business
and bosoms.

I occasionally hear from Hiram
Tubbs of your city. He has a rope walk
611-613 Front St. I read his boy with me
2 years. My regards to the Corps, and to
Sweet that I like his contributions to the
Journal of Education. Truly yrs &c
Alfred Wolcott

Concord, N.H.
Feb. 14th 1880

My Dear Minn.

Both your
letters - one to me, the
other to Madam came
daily to hand. The latter is
out of town, but will be at
home in a week, and will
then be pleased with your
letter to her - as I am with
mine.

You will find enclosed
a printed form of acceptance
of the Geology which please
make out and transmit.
The officials in the State Department
desire some voucher for the
disposition of their books, and
that is all it means. It accounts
for their stewardship. A pleasure,
remember business is business and

So return as soon as you
can the enclosed filled out.

As to the geology, they would
expect, as a matter of
course, your work, when
it is done. Remember it
is the State that sends it, and
not myself or Hitchcock.

You speak of the handsome
treatment our State has received
from the geologist Hitchcock.

You ought to have been in
our Legislature and heard the
curseings he got for his extravagant
use of the money voted for that
purpose. I don't think our
people are altogether satisfied
with him any way. From by you
^{he} got a little more out of
our Legislature until in all. I believe
30,000 was taken - more or less.

Hitchcock is close, not entirely

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reliable (I do not mean in
his later life statements, as he
has employed a great many
assistants, and he has dealt
niggardly with them. However
let this pass. Gummy does not
pass current here. He doesn't
put himself up with the new
developments. He is an un-
conscionable bore, lectures too long
and is tedious. His forte is
showing - blackboard illustration.
In this he excels every body I know
of. And on the whole, he amuses
an interest in persons who know
nothing about geology whatever.
Therefore he is a useful man.
Swimming him all up, he tries
upon his past acquaintances, and
does not learn any thing new.

I am glad the Carrs have come
out right, and as you say, the
investigatory are a bad lot