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Letter from Annie K[ennedy] Bidwell to John Muir, 1880 Dec 4.

Annie Kennedy Bidwell

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[43]

the greater number would have omitted the "roughing," which is the spirit of it, as only thus can the loveliness be seen. They spoke warmly of you, & rehearsed your sayings and doings until it seemed almost as if you were present. That grand illumination you gave us of the Silver firs, was admired to even your heart's content, if Dr Gray did tease you about it at the time!

I received a precious little package of flowers from E. O. Pelton, Brownsville Yuba Co, a few days since. As some of the flowers were those promised me by Miss Peltham, I conclude Miss Peltham is Pelton, and I am mistaken in thinking you called her "Sarah," and did not understand her name, when thinking it Peltham. I have written E. O. Pelton as if she really is the same I know. Hope it is not a mistake. Remember me cordially to Mrs Muir, whom I must soon to meet. Can you not arrange to visit us this Spring? I dare, & believe me, as ever, yours truly, A. K. B.

P.S. This was not mailed owing to news recd of the dying of Henry Bidwell; and afterward because of the illness & death of Mrs Annand's father. Dr Wayland was buried Wednesday of Pancho Chico this week. Was ill two weeks with Pneumonia. [1]

Dec. 4th 1880
Annie H. Bidwell.

Dear Mrs Muir. I owe you many apologies for not having returned you the pamphlet you so kindly lent me for six months, and not thanking you for the one so kindly sent me the past summer, during my visit East. I was very sick before going East and could not then write you, and all summer I hoped for time, but it came not, so many visits and calls had to be made. Mamma and I spent six weeks traveling! We visited Cape May, Newport, Boston, Pittsfield, Saratoga, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Macedonville (Penna.) Lake George, and Ellenville N. Y. The latter place had been unknown to us, even by name, until we visited a dear friend there; so were amazed at the grand scenery, elegant drives, & delightful air. It is in sight of the Catskill Mount.

ains, (and "its spurs," ²³ the Indian name of which I can not recall) and near Lake Minnewaska, a gem indeed.

When we meet I will tell you all about it — this region — for it was to us the grandest we saw in our travels. We visited the Grays at Cambridge. That is, we spent one day from two o'clock, until eight in the evening, and the next day took tea with them, and attended the Academy of sciences lecture in the evening, under their care. So we had a delightful time with them. Mrs Gray wrote me to make them a visit, but as they were to start in little over a week for Europe I would not do so, though Mr and Mrs Gray were both very earnest. So we remained in Boston and went

50941

to Cambridge when we could. Mrs Gray gave a grand garden ^{tea} party to the Academy of sciences; but very singularly the weather changed suddenly from "suffocatingly warm" to as cold as San Francisco, & I almost felt as if in that City. Doctor Gray gave a most interesting lecture on the flora of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, to those of the "Academy" who cared to leave the grounds to hear it. Of this also I will tell you when we meet, and you will be amused at what he said of "Eriogonum"! But the great delight of Mr & Mrs Gray was to rehearse to their friends our camping experience, and nothing seemed to be forgotten. This, especially at dinner, where all expressed great desire to enjoy similar experience. I am not so sure, however, that