



1881-04-11

## Letter from G[eorge] Engelmann to John Muir, 1881 Apr 11.

George Engelmann

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St. Louis, Mo., April 11 1881

My dear Mr Muir

Let me congratulate you and Mrs Muir on the happy event, of which a kind note from Dr Streubel has just informed me. Well, when this reaches you, the mother is already old and congratulations are out of date; what was a baby then, is now a young lady, she can at least say Papa and Mama.

Who ever has once been roaming about in California wants to be there again, and she has seen such and smiling meadows after spring and fresh delightful vegetation. But whether it will come to that? I do not know yet!

But as I certainly shall not (if at all) be there in season for the flowering of the Oaks I would ask you to get for me at least the two species which grow close about you. One is *Quercus lobata*, which grows, as you

Engelmann  
Know, about the oaks on the Creek. The  
other is *Quercus douglasii*, the blue  
mountain oak, on the bare hills above you  
a few specimens of each of these in flower  
and again a week or two later when the  
leaves are not yet fully grown (showing  
the female flowers or young acorns) would be  
very desirable. I would say that I found  
a few specimens of the lobate also on the hills,  
but *douglasii* is readily distinguished by the  
smoother, whiter bark, the smaller and less  
lobed leaves; it seems to be the common  
tree on the arid hills.

And now my best wishes for mother  
and daughter and all of you

Yours truly

J Engelmann