



1882-01-02

Letter from John Muir to [Annie Kennedy] Bidwell, 1882 Jan 2.

John Muir

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Martinez, California,
January 2^d, 1882.

Dear Mrs Bidwell,

I wish you & the General
a happy new year & would
be most happy could I
deliver this greeting in
person all the more so
since I learn from your
last that you are about
to leave California for a
few months. We enjoyed
the short glimpse we had
of the General during his
run away visit but were
greatly disappointed in his
not spending the evening

My literary work which I by no means
intend to leave sight of even in the
brightest smiling of my new home
land. Speaking of brightness, I have
been busy for a week or two past letting
more light into the house by means of
darker windows, & in making two more
open book shelves. Darker windows,
open wood fires, & perfectly happy babies make
my home glow with warm sunny brightness
& bring out the best that there is in us.

Remember me to your sister when you so home, & believe me ever cordially
together with the old friends of field studies
Keep the "new place" until you come to visit us.

Thanks for the clipping etc.

with us We shall look forward however to a good visit from you ~~both~~ both as one of the best things promised in the new year Doctor & Mrs Parry were here ^{for} two days some little time after their visit to Rancho Chico & they were most ardent in their praises of your beautiful home while I rehearsed our grand camp enjoyments about Shasta & Lassen Buttes & the volcanoes Bumpses, Geysers, Eucyonas etc & the weeks dozing rest

about the house, & the drives, & the fine Sacramento trail etc etc,

I have been anxious to run up to Chico in the old free way to tell you about the magnificent view back that I found last summer in the Lord's Arctic palaces, but as you can readily guess it is not now so easy a matter to bring better than like a bird for here is a wife & a baby & a home

Copy of Mr. Muir's letter of Jan. 2, 1882.

Martinez, California,

January 2, 1882.

Dear Mrs Bidwell,

I wish you and the General a happy new Year I would be most happy could I deliver this greeting in person all the more so since I learn from your last letter that you are about to leave California for a few months. We enjoyed the short glimps we had of the General during his runaway visit but were greatly disappointed in his not spending the evening with ~~us~~ ^{us}. We shall look forward however to a good visit from you both as one of the best things promised in the new Year. Doctor and Mrs. Parry were here ~~after two days~~ ^{some} little time after their visit to Ranch Chico and they were most ardent in their praises of your beautiful home while I rehearsed our grand camp enjoyments about Shasta and Lassens Buttes and the Volcanoes, Bumpus, Geysers, Erigonum etc. and the weeks dozing rest about the house, and the drives, and the fine Sacramento sail etc etc etc,

I have been anxious to run up to Chico in the old free way to tell you about the majestic icy facts that I found last summer in the Lord's Arctic palaces, but ^{as you can readily guess,} it is not now so easy a matter to wing hither⁺ thither like a bird, for here is a wife and a baby and a home, together with the old press of field studies and literary work, which I by no means intend to lose sight of even in the bright bewitching smiles of my wee bonnie lassie. # Speaking of brightness, I have been busy for a week or two just past letting more light into the house by means of dormer windows, and in making two more open brick fire places, Dormer-windows, open wood-fires, and perfectly happy babies make any home glow with warm sunny brightness and bring out the best that there is in us.

(end of chapter)

Thanks for the clippings etc, Keep the " Sculpture" untill you
come to visit us. Remember me to your sister when you go home, X
believe me ^{ever} Cordially yours.

Yours, John Muir.

*Have copied Mr. Muir's punctuation lest I mar
his meaning
A. E. K. B.*

Rancho Chico, April 12, 1917;

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