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1882-11-13

Letter from Robt. Paterson to John Muir, 1882 Nov 13.

Robert Paterson

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30 Kelly Street
Greenock, Scotland,
13th Nov^r 1882.

John
W. Robert Muir.

Sir,

I hope you will pardon the presumption of addressing you, whom I do not know, except through your writings. - I can fancy you deluged with enquiries of this sort, and so, if you do not find time to reply, I will make for you, that excuse.

I have been casting about for some time, for some means of entering upon a rustic life, as I find confinement does not suit my health, and besides I have a little of that love for

nature, for which you are so distinguished. - Your very pleasant articles ^{on "Real Culture"} in the "Century" Magazine led my thoughts in that direction, and I now venture to ask you for some information on the following points which from your knowledge of the district I think you can easily give. -

1st How many hives & swarms would it be necessary to start with? Could these be easily procured and at what cost? what is the average return per hive per annum? - Or, without going into details, if you could give me an idea of the capital required to enable one to secure a livelihood out of the business, it would do quite as well. -

- 2^d Do you think it would be necessary or advisable to combine the Culture with Farming? -
- 3^d Can land capable of growing wheat be readily got in the district? -
- 4th Are the winters severe on the high lands? -
- 5th Do you think I could get employment for some time on any of the existing "New Farms" so as to gain some experience of the business? -

If you should favor me with a reply I should be glad to have any other information on this subject you may choose to give.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
Robt. Waterson

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