



1883-11-03

## Letter from May F.Benton to John Muir, 1883 Nov 3.

May F. Benton

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Oakland

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883

Dear Mr Muir

Your picture  
and poem in fruit and vine  
filled us all with delight.

It was pleasant to know you  
had not forgotten your Oakland  
friends though we had had no  
word from you in so long.

The pleasure of knowing your  
wife and little one seems denied  
us while you are living so far  
away but do try sometime to  
have them come to Oakland if  
only for a little time for I do not  
think they would object to its "sticky  
skins" as much as you do.

Now I would love to see Wanda  
and visit with her and enjoy with her

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the delight in this world to which  
she is so new. Will you not  
send me a picture of her for I  
do so long to know what she is  
like? That she is very pretty and  
bright was no surprise knowing  
her parents - I had just returned  
from the country when your  
remembrance reached me - All  
summer I have been dreaming  
away the time in the Santa Cruz  
Mountains near Wright's Station - It  
was a most delightful time for I  
had become weary of people and the  
horrors of the city - Just to be alone  
and in the woods was enough to  
make me well and happy. Yet  
though my general health is improved  
my eyes trouble me so much I  
cannot resume teaching until next  
year. I hope you are well in  
your beautiful home -

Mrs Corbuth and I speak  
of you and we all wish you were

nearer yet I suspect you are glad,  
just as you used to be, not to be  
too near your friends, your people  
friends I mean, for I guess to be  
among your woodland friends  
the birds, the woods, the waterfalls would  
never tire you - We had a

pleasant visit at Mrs Carr's when in  
Southern California last year and  
a friend writes me she has her  
new house now - I have not seen  
Mrs Corbuth's new home yet -

Tell Wanda for me that  
there is some one down here who  
wants to know her and would play  
with her and tell her stories just as  
long as she liked -

Mother and Father sends  
with me in remembrance to you  
and your wife -  
May J. Benton.

533. 16<sup>th</sup> St.