



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1893-08-31

Letter from John Muir to Helen [Muir], 1893 Aug 31.

John Muir

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THE CLIFTONVILLE HOTEL, MARGATE.			



HÔTEL MÉTROPOLE.

LONDON, Aug. 31 1893.
W.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"MÉTROPOLE," LONDON.
TELEPHONE NO 3203.

My dear little Helen

I am on the way home but it will take a good while to get home for it is a long way & I have to stop here & there along the road still it will not be long after you get this letter until you get me. Only a few weeks & I'll write & let you know when I am all the time.

I got back to England from the big mountains & glaciers of Switzerland last Monday & I was pretty tired for I traveled all night. Then I went to see a grand church full of curious looking old-fashioned people made out of stone. Tuesday I went up the Thames river on a steamboat

to the Kew Gardens where all kinds of beautiful trees & palms & ferns & flowers gathered from all the world are growing. I know that you & Wanda & Mamma & Grandma would be delighted to see them thousands of men & women & little boys & girls were looking at them & they could go wherever they liked without paying anything if they were careful not to touch any of the flowers. These gardens are larger than all the ranch. Near the gate of the gardens there is a large building called the herbarium, & there I found my old friend Sir Joseph Hooker & he was glad to see me. He knew me very well as soon as I walked into the room among the dried plants though it is seventeen years since we had seen each other. Next day he brought his family down to London - his wife & daughter & two boys

I ate breakfast with them at a nice place called the Loudon House when all the waiters wear dress suits. After breakfast we all went to Westminster Abbey again the grand church I have just been speaking about when so many old Kings & Queens & noblemen used to say their prayers.

Then we went to the Parliament House & the Speaker of the House of Commons who is a friend of Hooker showed us all the different rooms & told us lots of curious things.

Then we went to the British Museum when all kinds of birds & animals & flowers & bones are dried & stuffed & my! what a lot there were stuffed bears & deer & elephants & hermits & seals & eagles & all kinds of monkeys & everything.

Today I went to see the Tower of London a huge grim old castle

full of guns & swords & shields & armor & a thousand queer things that I have no room to write about. Then I went to the bank & found another letter from Wanda & a nice picture from you dated Aug. 14. I was very glad to get them. I hope to get more before I leave this country for I do not start across the sea until the 16th of September. This afternoon I am going with Joseph Hooker & his family to their home which is about 30 miles from here. I hope to have a good time.

Then some time tomorrow I hope to start for Edinburgh & get ready for getting back to our own country. I've been buying some nice things for you & I will look about for some more. Now my darling I must stop. I send you many kisses over the sea & over the mountains. Love from all the family. Goodbye
I declare your Papa John Meier