



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1893-12-19

Letter from C[harles] W[alter] Carruth to John Muir, 1893 Dec 19.

Charles Walter Carruth

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Carruth & Carruth

Telephone 369.

520 Fifteenth Street

Fine Printers

Oakland, Cal. Dec 19, 1893

Dear Mr. Minn:

Your kind note of the 11th was duly received, and in accordance with my prediction for getting off till to-morrow what I do not have to do to-day (having so much in the broad evening and domestic lines that I do have to do) that it has gone thus long unanswered. And then, your suggestion in regard to sending the Russia sonnet to Geo. Keenan started me on some more sonnets, or rather the one to Keenan, and the one to Tolstoi was suggested by an item in the Enquirer. Of the other sonnets sent, the one on English lanes has the most spontaneously

of anything I have written, though I fear so careful a naturalist as you may find fault with the botany. My father, for many years a resident of Kansas, has the flora of that region at his finger's ends as it were, but my botany is of a very general character.

Your kind invitation to come up and see you I shall be all too pleased to accept. Is the holiday season suitable for you to do business in such a way? Will you be at home on Wednesday of next week with no engagements to conflict with your wanting your time upon me? If so, I would suggest that day. If you have anything at all which would conflict with this, drop me a line, and we will fix upon some other date.

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You no doubt had a very pleasant summering. But as you say, it must have been a very decided contrast to your quarter century of work in the wilds. By the way, I notice by Mr. Surtell's sketch in the May Century that you antedate me some nineteen years. You see I have the advantage of you in that I know quite a little about you, while I am a terra incognita to you, and I am afraid that upon exploration you will find it but a barren place, not worth your study. I think, speaking of age, that you will be young at one hundred if you do, ^{not} become

over-civilized, which may heaven
 preserve you from. If there is anything
 that takes the youth out of a person
 it is the insane rush and com-
 petition of these times. Would that
 I had been born a Greek at the
 dawn of their civilization!

I should I go on versifying
 during the nineteen years which would
 bring me up to your age, I should
 never expect to write as perfect a
 series of poems as your articles
 on the Deer Pastures of California,
 and particularly the portion on the
 Shasta tracts.

Trusting that this rambling
 epistle has not tired your Pa-
 tience too severely, I subscribe
 myself,

Your devoted admirer
 C. W. Barrett