



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1858-03-10

## Letter from Charles Reid to John Muir, 1858 Mar 10

Charles Reid

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John who was the master of non sense  
 if you know, just thank him for this letter  
 I must say I never experienced his help so  
 much as since I commence blathering out letters  
 to you. I guess I have read the most of your  
 book that we have, it is a very interesting history  
 there is in it many sudden raising and fallings  
 of empires, many great and prodigious battles,  
 many noble and mean Captains and Generals  
 many wise and ignorant Kings, I wish  
 I had the other volumes if you have any I  
 hope you will let me have them if you are  
 through with them John always forgets to take  
 this one home. William has got a letter  
 from you by Hendry but there is a part  
 of it so dull that he cannot make it out so the  
 is rather small please write a little sooner this  
 time you need not write till you get a afternoon  
 to write one all nice and short just sit down  
 some night and write it out rough and ready, not  
 as it comes and long to mind that and try and scare me, I will  
 never mind no more of present but remember your  
 famous correspondent *Alphredo*

00232

~~Handwritten text at top of page~~  
 Dale March 10<sup>th</sup> 1800  
 Now Johnny read them Johnny  
 Dear friend John  
 I And when your done just say  
 To me a roving letter  
 Yours of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 And send it with the  
 inst was received by me in due time and I  
 was glad to hear from you for I thought you were  
 long in writing but it came at last and after  
 reading it I could not pick anything out of it  
 to praise it was so out and complete so here  
 I be with out one word to write, write a minute  
 I am in good health hoping this will find  
 you in good health too although John this  
 is a very common phrase in letters yet I am glad  
 I can say so. I am working along as usual  
 Spring will soon be in and then set a trot a  
 tural at all the time in a horse out but no run in ground

[22]  
You said in your letter that time to stow windows  
bins was precious truly John you said the truth  
for our lives even with old age (which is not every  
ones) is very short, for soon the place that knows  
us now will know us no more for ever and but  
a mite when compared with eternity for as  
one said could ~~see~~ some unknown bird  
come from some unknown region every thousand  
year and take one small partick of dust away  
from this earth by the time the whole earth  
was removed it would but be the beginning  
of eternity although it would <sup>take</sup> thousands of thousand  
years to remove even one small handfull and then  
to look at one of the hills and think of the  
time it would take to remove it we would be  
apt. to say it would take forever.

[33]  
But I believe John I wont tell you  
any more of my secrets for you dont have any  
pity for me I suppose it is because you are more  
advanced in the darkness but if the old lady  
had looked ~~at~~ through the ground and seen  
you at the beginning it she'd have thought  
you were trembling and blushing for fear  
And hey wonder at <sup>the</sup> beginning of it  
I come dont hurt yourself laughing John  
Your elegy on the tree was very fine you  
seemed to mourn its death but I dont for it  
took a long time to accomplish it but he is down  
and hauled out the way the tata bogle broke  
one sledge but <sup>made</sup> another with some pumpkins  
in it and if it had taken it to we would <sup>have</sup> had  
to buried it or blown it up with powder.