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1866-10-12

Letter from Jeanne C. Carr to John Muir, 1866 Oct 12

Jeanne C. Carr

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open it early in October, but there is no certainty. A larger number than ever before had applied for rooms and many have gone away.

I suppose you have in Indian's the advantage of access to a good library. I suppose you have before this found my beautiful book "The Stone Mason of Saint Point," and what did you think of it? And did you ever find Calypso for yourself in the North Woods?

I have a great many questions to ask you, and I trust there is a time coming for them all. You do not know how we hold you in our memories as one apart from all other students, in your insight into Nature, & the simplicity of your love for her. I think you would love her as well if she did did not turn mill wheels, or grind any body's grist. Besides, I like you for your individual and acceptance of religious truth, and feel a deep sympathy in it. Ah, are truly your friend, dear John

827

Madison Oct 12,

Muir,

Come to us freely & my whether it will keep the Ambassadors. I even and see us this fall - on any time when you can. Yours most truly
Auntie
Mrs. J. Carr
Madison

No, dear John Muir, little Henry's letter has made me feel how much I have lost in letting you alone so many months, and I have done injustice to my own heart in not telling you how really sorry I was for the misfortune that took you out of the Canada woods. Somehow I thought you were a picture prettily framed in that wild picturesque region, did you not feel more at home with the nature there, than in the human element now surrounding you? - I like to think of you either in the good old mother's arms, or where Maus Brock is the work of the ages. But I see that you are lonely - and I know it is not well for you. I write you to ask you to come here this fall, before nature

puts on her winter clothes, and make me, (us,) a good long coat, renew your old cutimacis with children and books, and make new friendships with grown people and with the plants I have to show you. I have studied the Junge this year - just enough to be completely bewitched with their beauty. Their perishable nature adds to their interest for me - it allies them to the clouds, to the morning and evening light - to all things made "for beauty only". The long continued rains have produced them in unusual luxuriance & perfection, & I am daily mourning that I cannot abide with them for a few days in their chosen haunts. I suppose the region about your old home is even richer than this, in the 'little children' of the vegetable world.

We have had a bitter disappointment in the University. The Legislature of last winter voted to unite the

Agricultural Grant & that to the University in a common fund, for the support of an Institution which under the old name should be reorganized to cover the ground of both. We had a new board of Regents appointed, and their first effort was to obtain a President. They finally agreed on appointing Prof Paul A Chadburne of Williams College, a very eminent scientific man, one of the first botanists in the country. The Massachusetts State Republican committee had also appointed him to represent them (with others) at the late Rep. convention in Philadelphia. He did not go, but had hardly arrived here when our democratic papers came out in a series of articles against him - and he was so disgusted with the prospect of a political quarrel that he refused to stay with us. In consequence the Faculty was not reorganized, and the institution is practically suspended. We hope they may