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1869-02-27

Letter from [John Muir] to Georgie [Galloway], [1869 Feb 27].

John Muir

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demoralized" & are not the work of either
good or man, I mean to be here
about two weeks longer. But alas
how little a letter contains after all.
Write soon Cordelia, John Minn

00491

West Bank of Castle Creek

Feb 27

Tell the Times grow longer & longer since
I heard from you. My sheep stole a march
while I was compiling the long pages of 20th volume
& now have they are "over the hills & far away" to the
pebbly banks of Castle Creek. So called from

a lonely rock standing in the centre of
a valley where the stream takes its rise.
At a distance this rock looks like an old castle.
Sheep herding has been extolled by philosophers
& poets, but I think that both philosophy & poetry
are dimly seen in the business of sheep at all.

Milton bewailed his inability to see "flocks & herds"
but I don't care if I should never see any
more of these dirty mongrel mutton assemblies.
The native mountain sheep is a happy animal
& handsome as a deer, but these omni-shape
mixed "improved" creatures are "feathered"