



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1870-05-28

Letter from Jeanne [C.] Carr to John Muir, [1870] May 28.

Jeanne C. Carr

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Recommended Citation

Carr, Jeanne C., "Letter from Jeanne [C.] Carr to John Muir, [1870] May 28." (1870). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 1341.

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^{C43}
Mr Hutchings has not yet
returned from Washington
& so I will be here all summer

I have not heard from
you since January

I had a letter the other
day from Prof^r Butler
He has been glancing &
twinkling about among the towns
of all the states at a most
unsubstantial velocity

Did you see the gold
of the young pine plains this
Spring there is a later gold
in October which you must
see

Remember me warmly
#44 to all the boys
& I remain always
most cordially yours
John Muir

Yosemite
Near Big Oak Flat

00512

C15

[1870]

Yosemite May 17th

Dear friend Mrs Carr
Our valley is just quaking
throbbing full of open absorbable
beauty & I feel that I must
tell you about it, I am lonely
among my enjoyments - The
valley is full of visitors but I
have none to talk to

The season that is with
us now is about what corresponds
to full pledged Spring in Wisconsin
The oaks are in full leaf & have
shoots long enough to bend over &
more on the wind The good
old buckeye is waist high already
& almost all the rock ferns have
their outermost fronds unrolled
Spring is in full power & is steadily
reaching higher like a shadow & will
will soon reach the topmost horizon

of rocks. The buds of the poplar
opened on the 19th of last month.
Those of the oaks on the 24th.

May 1st was a fine hopeful
healthful cool bright day with
plenty of the fragrance of new leaves
& flowers & of the music of bees & birds.
From the 5th to 14th was extremely
warm with the thermometer averaging about
85° at noon in shade. Crazy banks
of cumuli became common about
Star King & the dome. Flowers came
in troops - the upper snow melted
very fast raising the falls to their
highest pitch of glory. The waters of
the Yosemite fall no longer floated
softly & downily like banks of spent
rockets but shot at once to the
bottom with tremendous energy.

There is at least ten times the
amount of water in the valley that
there was when you were here.
In crossing the valley we had to

swim in the boat. The river
paid but little attention to its
banks, flowing over the meadows
in great river-like sheets. But
last Sunday, ^{15th} was a dark day -
the rich streams of heat & light were
withheld - the thermometer fell suddenly
to 35° & down among the verdant
banks of new leaves, & groves of half-
open ferns, & thick settlements of
confident flowers came heavy
snow in big blinding flakes
coming down with a steady gait
& taking their places gracefully upon
shrinking leaves & petals as if they were
doing exactly right. The whole day
was snowy & stormy like a piece
of early winter. Snow fell also on
the 16th. A good many of the ferns
& delicate fls are killed.

There is about fifty tractors in
the valley at present. When are
you & the doctor coming.