



1871-12-04

Letter from John Muir to [James] Cross, 1871 Dec 4.

John Muir

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Jamaison
Near N. Sherman, low Marshall
Dorel 1877-192-?

1871

Yosemite Valley Dec 20th 71

Dear Cross. I have just written a line to Maxwell & of course you are in lively remembrance as one third of the pleasant trinity of the Hoffmann excursions. I suppose that you are now bravely homed in Merrie England, & in looking back upon the many broad fields of terrestrial grandeur & beauty, you behold our Yosemite sharply defined, peerless & companionless, would that you might see our mountains now, they are glorious with the generous snows of four days storm, every dome & spire, & every notch & tablet, has its share of the pure jewels of winter storm.

Since you were here I have rambled the upper mtns incessantly until driven down by deep snows, I am engaged in the study of the ancient glacial system of this region, & am no longer bound to Hutchings or his mill, I will likely go on with my explorations with reference to the dead Yosemite ice rivers for several years. I may write a monogram for the Boston Academy of Sciences.

I was in the great-Tuolumne canon a short time ago of wh Ketch Ketchy valley forms a part. The Ketch Ketchy occupies exactly the same position upon the Tuolumne, that the Yosemite does upon the Merced, & both valleys were formed at the same period & by the same forces, & of course

Their physical characters are closely similar
I should enjoy a talk with you. Letters
are small contrivances of but little value
in scientific discussions, though they answer
well enough for the conveyance of friendly
greetings. I send you an outline sketch
of our Hoffman Camp, wh doubtless will
touch a happy memory. May the mountain
beauty wh you then absorbed remain
pictured in you forever, & enrich the whole
fabric of your life.



Blacks
to here all
a lonely, there
valley with whom
ought, I would
I am well
Cordially yes
Muir

valley
California
(via Big Oak Flat)

A trail is being made up Indian Canon &
another up the face of the Mountain to Glacier point
& a third one is in contemplation for Eagle point via
the rugged & tangled Canon wh Maxwell said would "puzzle
the saints" & wh you called "the Valley!!"

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 I should enjoy a talk with you. Letters
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 pictured in your forever, & enrich the whole
 fabric of your life.

I am stopping at Black's
 hotel now & will likely be here all
 next summer. I am lonely, there
 is not a soul in the valley with whom
 I can exchange a thought. I would
 like to hear from you. Fare well
 I am ever cordially yrs
 John Muir

Yosemite Valley
 California
 (via Big Oak Flat)

A trail is being made up Indian Canon &
 another up the face of the mountain to glacier point
 & a third one is in contemplation for Eagle point via
 the "rugged & tangled Canon wh Maxwell said would puzzle
 the devils" & wh you called "the valley!!"

Sketch by John Muir of
 our camp!

James Ross

Maxwell

John Muir

above Yosemite
 1871

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