



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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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!!"

#7333

00210



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 I should enjoy a talk with you. Letters  
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 beauty wh you then absorbed remain  
 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 "rigged & 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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