



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1872-10-14

Letter from John Muir to [Jeanne C.] Carr, [1872] Oct 14.

John Muir

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Yosemite Oct 14th

Dear Miss Carr, I cannot hear from you. There are some souls perhaps that are never tired that can go steadily glad, always tuneful & songful like mountain water, not so weary hungry one. This second time I come from the rocks for fresh supplies of the two breads but I find but one. I cannot hear from you. My last weeks were spent among the canons of the Hoffman range & the Cathedral Peak group & of Lake Tenaya. All gloriously rich in the written truths wh I am seeking I will now go to the wide ranged tributaries of Illilouette. & to Pohono, after wh I will rove about among the rim canons & rock forms of the valley as the weather permits

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Perhaps I have not yet answered
all of your last long pages, there
is a quotation from Tyndall con-
cerning the nature & origin of his intense
mountain enjoyments. He searches far
& near for a theory of his delight in the
mountains, going among the accidents
of his own boyhood & those of his remotest
fathers, but surely this must be all
wrong & instead of groping away
backwards among the various grades
of grandfathers he should explore the
most primary properties of man.
Perhaps we owe "the pleasurable emotions
wh. fine landscape makes in us" to a cause
as radical as that wh. makes a magnet
pulse to the two poles. I think that one
of the properties of that compound wh.
we call man is that when exposed to
the rays of mountain beauty it glows
with joy. I don't know who
of all my ancestry are to blame.

but my attractions & repulsions
are badly balanced tonight
& I will not try to say any more
excepting, farewell & love to you
all
John Muir