



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1873-09-10

**Letter from John Muir to [Asa] Gray, 1873 Sep 10.**

John Muir

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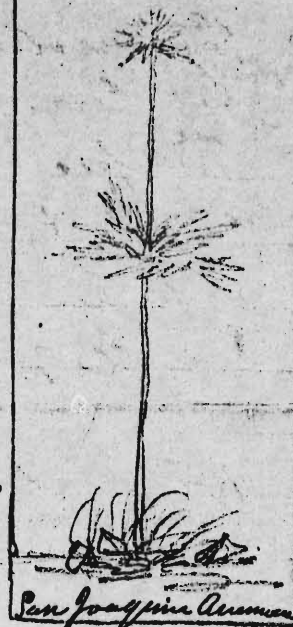
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Muir, John

Yosemite Valley  
Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Gray, Yours of  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> recd. Thank you

Our high Sierra *Aquilegia*  
is usually pale rose or  
bluish purple in color  
changing to dull cream  
yellow when dying, quite  
variable, the flowers are  
very delicate in texture & in color - almost  
transparent. *Cerulea* is far too blue  
a name - *Chrysantha* in yellow



Have you heard from the weed  
*Xotrychium* you sent to Eaton,  
we found it on the head of the Merced R.  
at elevation of 8,000. The dwarf & giant  
growing nearly together.

On my way to the glaciers at the head  
of the San Joaquin, I was wildly delighted  
on meeting a big *Anemone* about the size  
of our dear *Wiscoviana* & *Brittalliana*  
with heads of silky achenia  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
dia. The withered sepals showed that the fls

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must be at least 2 inches dia -  
the involueral <sup>is</sup> finely & sharply  
dissected.  
Mrs Carr, I find has carried off all  
the specimens I brought down to  
camp, & also all of the seed!! I will  
write her to send you one.  
I will gather your seeds, Abies  
& Torreya -

Had a glorious six weeks of free  
mountainarity with Carr & Kellogg  
they botanizing, I glacierizing  
Had one lovely scramble of fourteen  
days among the black jagged peaks  
at the head of the Merced Tuolumne & San  
Joaquin Rivers, - bagged thirty four  
active glaciers, Dr Kellogg & I are about  
to set out for the region about the  
heads of the South Fork of the San Joaquin  
& Kings & Kern Rivers, I pushing back  
among the glaciers that I know are  
there, K botanizing on lower ground  
we separating a week or so at a time  
From head of Kern R we will cross  
over to Owens River valley thence along

north past Mono to Lake Tahoe  
& yet northward until snow  
falls, Thanks for biography  
of Sullivant, Farewell  
I hear the Mtus calling  
Ever cordially yrs  
John Muir

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