



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1888-01-12

Letter from John Muir to [Jeanne C.] Carr, 1888 Jan 12.

John Muir

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Martinez, Jan. 12 '88.

Dear Mrs. Carr:

*Blame history of the  
country  
for the  
disturbance*

I can appreciate your difficulty in getting under way with that article -- so many diverse winds of doctrine. I saw from your first M.S. that you had difficulty in getting launched. You were evidently trying to do too much. No matter about the jogs and lifts of the Cordilleras and the resulting influence on human whims and purses, etc. Just pitch in and paint your pictures -- whatever you see that interests you, and the changes if any that may be desired may easily be made. If you look for and listen for more instructions you will write nothing freely. Just pitch in and finish in whatever way now seems best in the light you have, remembering always that it is Picturesque California you are sketching and not philosophy of oranges and town lots south of the new Mason and Dixon Line. Look at the landscapes as the sun looks at them.

Fine preaching, isn't it? Your article will be first-rate, I have no doubt, though the introduction will have to be cut off mostly. It reads too much like the preface of some Professor's big book. Strike right out into the midst of your pictures and let the boundaries take care of themselves. Remember me to the doctor.

Ever yours cordially,

J. Muir

Have not yet seen your last M.S.

(Envelope addressed to Mrs. Jeanne C. Carr, Pasadena, Cal.)