



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1888-02-10

**Letter from James D[avie] Butler to John Muir, 1888 Feb 10.**

James Davie Butler

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Madison, Wis.

John Muir, Esq.

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 1888.

My dear Friend.

Thanks to the post  
we can embrace one another from the  
ends of opposed winds. But we  
do not. Let us close up the  
ranks — and the more as they grow  
thin.

Three years ago last October, Gen'l  
Alford — after long palsy — passed  
away. Nor was it long before his  
wife followed. News of his death reached  
me in Vienna. —

Joshua Jones I saw in N. York  
in July '86. He recalled your telepath-  
ic impulse to go in search of me,  
and our rencontre — a truth stran-  
ger than fiction. I have published  
the whole adventure — as I lay in  
my mind — and wish I had your  
version of the impulse — or afflatus  
that led you to seek me — me  
whom you had no reason to think  
to be at all on the Pacific slope.

A year ago I went south  
calling in Nashville and Montgomery.  
In Florida I often thought of you there.  
My sojourns were in Gainesville,

Jacksonville. Crescent city. Enterprise.  
Sanford. Rockledge (on Indian River).  
Palm Bay. Silver Springs. - Lakeland. Tampa.

By way of Key West I went to Havana.  
Returning I called in Charleston. Wash DC.  
N.Y. Boston and Montreal. I was gone  
90 days.

Since then I have kept much  
at home. - studying Greek - with my  
Agnes - who has read with me 1000 pages

Henry settled in Superior on the Great  
Lake. - As a lawyer he many adventurous  
tramps far West to remove a cloud from  
Superior titles. - The town is growing sur-  
prisingly. - Anna has gone there to keep  
house for him. - His brother James long in  
Iowa is about removing to Superior. They  
say it is too warm here though the mercury  
this winter has here solidified.

My wife is in far better  
health than for years. - and joins me in  
vivid remembrances and warm regards.

At our annual meeting I gave  
an address on the most noted seat we have  
had Alexander Mitchell - which I will send  
you - as soon as I become sure of your  
whereabouts. - I enclose you a letter  
that just now greets me from another seat.

James D. Butler.