



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1888-10-31

Letter from James D. Butler to [recipient unknown], 1888 Oct 31.

James D. Butler

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Madison, Wis., Oct 31st, 1888

My Dear Sir:

I make haste to answer your questions:

1. My letter to Muir in May, 1869, and received by him in July of that year, was addressed to him in San Jose, hundreds of miles from the Yosemite. When writing I had not resolved to visit California at all, and in July had no definite plan of a tour there save to visit a sister of my wife in San Jose. In that city, or near it, I believed Muir to be till I saw him step forth from the bushes on the bank of the Merced River.

2. General Alvord had no party in coming to the Yosemite except myself. He had never been heard of by Muir. Jones my companion in climbing the mountain, was a companion thrown in my way by chance.

3. We reached Sacramento,--thinking to go at once to San Francisco,--but learning that Sacramento was a good starting point for the valley, we made that city our starting point, and started at once.

Trusting this explanation may make all clear. I am very cordially yours,

James D. Butler

[Typed from newspaper clipping found in JM scrapbook.]

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