



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1889-07-04

Letter from John Muir to Louie [Strentzel Muir], 1889 Jul 4.

John Muir

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Grand Hotel.

S. F. Thorn, Manager,

San Francisco, Cal.

July 4th 1889

Dear Louis. I'm pezzing
away I have mented a few
good lines some coming here
but it is a hard subject
& goes slow - However I'll get
it done somehow & sometime.

It was cold here last
evening & I had to put over
every thing in my satchel at
once -

Saw Mrs Porteous in the Verme
restaurant. She sends her love
& wishes to be remembered & is very
anxious for a visit from you
& the children -

Last evening an innocent
looking Examiner reporter sent up
his card. & I really moved

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Grand Hotel.

S. F. Thorn, Manager,

San Francisco, Cal.

188

told the boy to let him come up.
He began to speak of the Muir
glacier but quickly changed the
subject to horned toad snakes
& Gila Monsters I asked him
what made him change the
subject so badly & what there
was about the Muir Glacier to
suggest such reprobate replies.
He said snakes was his specialty
& wanted to know if I had seen
many etc. I talked carelessly
for a few minutes & judge
of my surprise in seeing
this villainous article -

"John Muir says they kill hogs
& eat rabbits but don't eat hogs
because too big etc" What Poetry!

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188

It's so perfectly ridiculous
I have at least had a
good laugh out of it: "The
toughness of the skin makes
a difference" etc - I should think
it would.

The air has been sulphurous
all day & noisy as a battle-
field. I heard some band
music but kept my room
& saw not the procession.

Hope your finger is not
going to be seriously sore.

I think the babies are well
I feel nervous about them
after reading about those
geological snakes of John Muir
Give my love to Cousin Fanny

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188

I tell her to help watch the
children while I'm away.

My room is better than
last & I might at length
feel at home with my
Puget Sound scenery
had I not seen & had
nerves shaken with those
Gila monsters - I hope I'll

survive though the Examiner
makes me say "If the poison gets
into them it takes no time at all
to kill them" (the boys) & my skin
is not as thick. Remember me
to Grandma Grandpa & the babies
& tell them not the sad story of the
Snakes of Fresno. Ever yours

John Muir

01352