



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1889-07-30

Letter from James D[avie] Butler to John Muir, 1889 Jul 30.

James Davie Butler

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REUBEN G. THWAITES, Secretary.
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Superior, Wis.

Madison, July 30, 1889

Mr John Muir. ^{at the office of the State Historical Society}
My dear Friend.

How busy - or how forgetful of old friends you have grown! In the winter I mailed you a "Butter family" - a pedigree ^{for} which I watched and waited long to trace, in various lines, my first Am. ancestors; - Bates and Butter to 1635. - Harris 1631. Digourney to 1185 etc. A dozen of my books are in the hands of experts abroad. I would fain follow my lineage beyond the mighty deep, like Syracusan Arethusa beneath the Ionian to her native Grecian fountain. But you have made no sign to show that my book has come to your hands. My family are all here. Henry came here six years ago. The growth has been great. - he is an Alderman, and this very hour is away at a council-meeting.

My wife came here last year and
was so well. - that she came up again
& weeks ago. - Jamie is in the office
here - My Madison house is closed for
the summer, and the two daughters
are here housekeeping for us.

No where such air (all ozone)
and skies [of matchless gorgeousness in
clouds) - water-view grander than Mad-
ison with bolder shores.

Two books I brought, 1. the Iliad which
I ran through in 16 days - 15690 lines.
Turning from Greek to Italian, - I have
read 2/3 of Dante. These morning-stars
few now - a-days get up early enough to
see. I have told you my manner of
life, and ^{that} hoping you will do likewise.
You know that Jones with whom you found ^{me}
died last year. It is only two years since I
met him in N.Y. and we always talked
of you. So did Alvord. - How many have I
loved and lost! But I rejoice in light
beyond the dark valley! yr friend
James D. Butler.

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