



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1890-08-29

Letter from John Muir to Louie [Strentzel Muir], 1890 Aug 29.

John Muir

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Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma Aug. 29th 90
Dear Louie The answer to my Victoria
telegram was a grand & much needed
relief. The letter with the terrible news
reached me by the Queen on her trip
preceding this one but I did not see
it until she sailed, for when yours
& the children letters were handed in the
cabin was full of excited visitors all
talking & I ran through them hastily
without noticing the dreadful news.
As soon as the Queen sailed I took
a quiet reading of them all & when I dis-
covered Helens condition I vainly regretted
not being able to reach the steamer
& take her aboard as she slowly
rambled down the inlet among the
icebergs. Then I should have been
home 3 weeks earlier. On the way
down I received your letter of Aug 1st which
was a grand comfort. When the ship
reached Nanaimo I managed to catch
the train for Victoria in time to telegraph

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& receive an answer the same day
as I reached Victoria about 5 hours
ahead of the Queen. When the bad
news reached me I had just got
back from an exhausting trip which
had an exciting danger in it
connected with that wild man I
took with me & which I will not now
attempt to tell. Then the danger of losing
our darling made a burden un-
bearable & your horrible surmises
killed my appetite no matter
what I did. But now I am
well again though I still
dream now or less.
Mr Loomis left 2 weeks before I
did, & Mr Reid & party intended
leaving a week after I left.
The Queen is not going to make any
more trips north. She will leave here
Sunday & go back to Vancouver to coal
then sail direct for S. F. Captain Cook
invited me to stay on the Queen & as

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I would have³ to wait 4 days for
the regular steamer I thought
I would accept the invitation & thus
save the trouble of transshipping
baggage. So you may expect
me in 3 or 4 days after receiving
this or about the 5th of Sep. Had
your telegram been less
blessedly reassuring than
of course I would have pushed
home by rail.
I am stopping at the hotel
though my things are on
the ship. But I mean to
sleep on the ship hereafter
& try in the quietness to regain
the ten of my journal which
since the bad news was sighted
my love over & over again
to my darlings & all
John Muir

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