



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1890-11-12

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson , 1890 Nov
12.

John Muir

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Recommended Citation

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(3)
Martinez Nov. 12, 1890

Dear Mr Johnson.

I am at home & have not made the Kings River Trip at all. After trying to get Keith & others to go with me I made up my mind to go alone & set the day for starting but my father-in-laws health was evidently failing so fast I had to give up the excursion. And it is well I did for in less than a week from the date of my intended start he died. He left us on the last day of October passing on to the better land calmly & peacefully after bidding us all an affectionate farewell. He was 77 years old & his lifes work was all done & well done & closed like a summer day.

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But it is unspeakably sad to see the
 sorrow & heartache of little Helen &
 Wanda Child love the finest divinest
 thing on earth. Night after night Helen
 tells her mother that "My Pa came to
 me & took me in his arms & kissed me
 He is not sick any more but he is
 strong & carried me as he used to do
 before" Then sobbing she asks her
 mother why Grandpa can't come in the
 daytime as he does at night.

Of course I have now to care for
 both-farms & leisure for writing
 will be less than ever. Still I hope
 to snatch some hours for literary
 work. It is now so snowy & late
 I fear I shall not be able to get into
 the Canyon this season. I think however

that I can write the article from my old notes. I made three trips through the Kings R. Canon & one through the wild Middle Fork Canon with its charming Yosemite. Also I traced in a three months excursion the entire belt of Sequoia from Calaveras to the Kern.

I think with you that the Yosemite monopoly ought to be broken up though fair service is rendered the public.

You will not have John P. Irish in Congress to trouble you.

I will send you some of my Kings R sketches in a day or two I don't like most of Robinsons
Yours truly John Muir

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