



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1898-04-12

Letter from Hamlin Garland to John Muir, 1898 Apr 12.

Hamlin Garland

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474 Elm Street,
Chicago, April 12, 1898.

Dear John Muir:

As you perhaps know the people of the West are preparing for a very important Trans-Mississippi Exposition modeled somewhat on the Exposition in Chicago of 1893, to be held at Omaha, from June to November. A part of this Exposition will consist of a literary congress. Of this Congress I have been chosen as Chairman, and our Committee are now outlining the work which we are to do.

It is our design to present a short historical survey of what has been done in a literary way in the various sections embraced under the term Trans-Mississippi. We will assign to people qualified for such work the production of papers bearing upon the past condition, the present attainments and the future possibilities of Art and Literature in this region, in the aim to give some sort of direction and stimulus to the higher form of Art production. These addresses may afterward be printed in volume to be sold, through the regular channels of trade, although this has not yet been decided upon.

The thing which we wish to know at present is whether we can depend upon your sympathy and support in our Convention. If it has your sympathy and good will, I wish you would reply, addressing your letter to Mrs. Frances M. Ford, Secretary of the Local Congress Committee, to whom the active details of the Congress will necessarily fall during my absence in the Northwest. It is my intention to be present and preside at the meetings which will take place during the first week in October. October is a pleasant month in Nebraska, and the gathered grain of our prairies is well worth seeing. The people of the West will be glad to welcome you, and your visit will be made as pleasant as possible. Speakers will be entertained by the Committee. I sincerely hope you will be able to lend us your sympathy and your active support.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank G. Garland

Chairman of the Congress of Literature.

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