



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1898-05-11

**Letter from John Muir to [Charles Sprague] Sargent, 1898 May 11.**

John Muir

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Martinez May 11, 1848

My dear Prof Sargent, I have just returned from a four days trip of inspection of Magnifica around Truckee. Not a single coniferous bud is yet open thereabouts, so this year I was too early, as last year too late. I found that many of last years young leaves & cones were killed by frost & consequently this years crop of cones is likely to be small. Still we can hardly fail to get flowers somewhere. I took Sonne with me & have him round to watch Magnifica almost from day to day. I reported to Miss Eastwood & she will go to the summit of the Sierra in June unless she hears from Sonne that he has collected & forwarded the flowers. I have also engaged a man in Yosemite who is a collector of Comper seeds to send me the Magnifica flowers & I will be ready to go again myself in June if necessary.



I Thank you for the invitation to the glorious  
 round headed Atlantic forests with Canby;  
 Perhaps I should go to the glaciers of  
 Yakutat Bay, Prince Williams Sound & Cooks  
 Inlet. Any how I'll let you know  
 after this magnific business is settled.  
 Abbots letter is very interesting. Remember  
 me to him when you write.

I have done all I could in writing to  
 members of Congress on the Reservations &  
 getting other friends to write, & getting resolutions  
 of the Sierra Club forwarded by telegraph  
 & post. But in the excitement & din  
 of this Confounded war the silent trees stand  
 a poor show for justice.

Your 11<sup>th</sup> vol of Silva arrived the other day & I at  
 once turned to Muggins & Ponderosa to see your  
 conclusions on these wildly varied species & your  
 descriptions of them. ~~wonderful trees~~  
 Both are well done though you should  
 have sounded their praises for strength  
 & beauty & indomitable unkillable beauty  
 louder & longer.



Later I happened<sup>3</sup> to notice the  
dedication & it made my heart  
jump with joy as no other honor  
I have received ever did. The  
Harvard A. M. & Wisconsin University  
L. L. D. are as nothing to this. So  
you will know how deep my  
thanks are. You might have  
dedicated this grand volume to anyone  
of a hundred better botanists but to  
none that loves a fine tree more than

Your humble friend & admirer  
John Davis