



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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**Letter from C[harles] S. Sargent to John Muir, 1897 Jan 13.**

Charles Sprague Sargent

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*Jamaica Plain, Mass.,* January 13, 1897.

My dear Muir:

Much obliged for your letters and sympathy about the fire. It was not a very serious matter after all, although it might have been had it come later in the evening or even the next night which was stormy. The burnt end is already roofed in and we shall be re-established, I hope, in a couple of months or so, and certainly in time to welcome you if you will come to Brookline again with the opening of the spring.

I am still pretty lame but have been down to Washington looking over the field for new reservations. I found there that a good deal of land north of the Yosemite Park and near the Sierra summits has been surveyed; why I don't know unless it was to give some needy Government employee work. There are also considerable bodies of this land entered, but I believe it is possible to secure a small reserve comparatively free of entries immediately north of the Yosemite Park and covering the headwaters of a number of important streams. I cannot tell you today how large such a reserve would be, although I should say it might contain roughly something like a million acres. I was rather bothered to find the designation of such a reserve as they all have to be named in the presidential proclamations. The Stanislaus River seems to be the most important stream within its limits and so

02217

provisionally we have decided to call it, in case it is made, the Stanislaus Reservation. If you can suggest a better name, as I am sure you can, let me have it at once; and please do not mention to any one that there is any question of probability of such a reserve being recommended or made. We have got to act promptly and secretly in these matters or the politicians will overwhelm us. It won't do therefore to have the matter discussed by any one. I should be a pretty spectacle indeed telling you what to write about western forests and if I was going myself to write anything on the subject you are the person to whom I should turn for ideas and inspiration.

I am sorry I have not a spare copy of Volume ix. of the Tenth Census Reports which I fear has long been out of print. They certainly have a copy at the Academy and Miss Eastwood I know will lend it to you and allow you to keep it as long as you care to.

I do not know why you assume that I do not want any notes you may have about the number of needles <sup>in the</sup> and tassels <sup>of the length</sup> that remain on the branches, etc., etc. I particularly want these, especially the time <sup>of Pine</sup> the leaves of conifers remain on the branches, this being a matter which has generally been overlooked. I believe that the length of time Pine leaves endure affords a good specific character and it certainly ought to be noted if possible.

I am writing to the publishers to ask why you have not received your copy of The Silva. Our next woodland walks will be in

02217

British Columbia and Alaska and I hope you will be ready for them next  
summer.

Faithfully yours,

*C. S. Sargent*

John Muir, Esq.  
Martinez, Cal.