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1898-06-24

Letter from John Muir to [A. H.] Sellers, 1898 Jun 24.

John Muir

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Martinez June 24, 1848.

My dear Sellers
I congratulate you on
the happy journey onward of your good father
The so called death of a good man in ripe
age is no more to be deplored than the
bright sundown end of a good day. Both
are alike natural & ordained by God's love.

You need not lament my
failure to get the flowers of the magnificent
Silver Fir that trip with you, for I at last
found them in all their glory. After searching
the woods about Donner Lake & in the Washoe
Range I went to Shasta, walled up through
the snow nearly to the timber line. found not a
single female flower & only one tree with a few
immature male ones. Then went up the Scott
mountains with no better result. Went home
& corresponded with the botanists I had
engaged to collect them elsewhere, but hearing
nothing promising from them & the time of close
of bloom drawing nigh I went again to Truckee where
I left you & thence up the Sierra to the west of the

2
north-end of Lake Tahoe hoping that thereabouts
I would find them on some sheltered tree
beneath overlapping limbs spared from the
killing frost of last season. & So like a bee
with a good flower nose I went straight
to the one fertile tree of ten thousand, obtained
a magnificent lot in prime condition, & five
hours later had them on their way to
Boston by Express. Then I wrote to our
correspondents to cease their search but as
my letter could not have reached them they all
sent word of their failure. So there, you
see Scotch love knowledge once more
rewarded. I tried to drag Keith with me for fresh
air & fresh color but of course the inspired faint
crank hadnt sense enough to go.

If nothing untoward happens I'll be east in August
or September. will make a trip southward along the
Alleghenies with Sargent & Canby. When if you are
free we will make a trip in the midst of the
Indian Summer color in the Lake region.

We thank you for the generous invitation including
all the family though I dont see how Mrs M & the
children can leave home ^{for} so long.
With thanks & best wishes Ever Yours John Muir