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1897-03-05

**Letter from C[harles] S. Sargent to John Muir, 1897 Mar 5.**

Charles Sprague Sargent

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ARNOLD ARBORETUM,

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

*Jamaica Plain, Mass.,*.....March 5,.....1897.

My dear Muir:

I am gratified by the receipt of your note of February 24th.

I do not understand why you have not heard before that the proclamations were all issued on the 22nd. I should have supposed the news would have been telegraphed to San Francisco.

Mr. Page, the editor of The Atlantic Monthly, has sent me a copy of his letter to you. It seems to me excellent and that you cannot very well get out of the job.

We have had quite a lively time the last few days, the Senate having unanimously voted to annul the President's proclamations. I was summoned to Washington hastily and, so far as anything I did there, uselessly, but the Reserves are all right either through the failure of the two Houses to concur or because the President has vetoed the bill to which this matter was appended. I have not heard the particulars yet but will know in a day or two and will write an account of what has happened for Garden and Forest. It is very evident to me that another and probably more dangerous attack will be made against the Reserves during the special session of Congress, and it is of the utmost importance that everything possible should be said and done to arouse the public to an appreciation of their value as great national <sup>possessions</sup>. Unless this can be done, there is no hope of saving them. The western

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politicians are out for blood and they do not mean to give up if they can possibly help it. I depend on you to keep up your end. Of course we can get articles in California papers reprinted in the east. This seems desirable as showing that this is not a purely eastern movement against the west.

The Commission has been charged on the floor of Congress with all sorts of crimes, among others that we are acting in the interest of Wall Street and attempting to prevent the production of silver; another is that we never went near the reservations at all but passed the summer staying in palatial hotels looking at maps. It would all be very amusing if it was not so serious.

I am only home this morning and write in great haste, but am,  
always faithfully yours,

*P. S. Sargent*

John Muir, Esq.

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