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1898-11-01

Letter from John Muir to Helen [Muir], 1898 Nov 1.

John Muir

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Four Brook Farm
Tyringham, Berkshire Hills,
Nov. 1, 1898-

My dear Helen. This is Mr Gilder's place
in the country about 150 miles from
New York. It is in a broad glacial
valley & is the most famed for its
picturesque beauty of all New England.
Mr Gilder invited me up here last
Saturday & I've been rambling with him
& resting & having a fine time every way.
Mr Gilder has five children two of the boys
are at school & two of the girls are here
they are about 6 & 8 years old, & a few
minutes ago it was funny to see three merry
red checked lassies driving off by themselves
in a comical little cart, drawn by a comical
little donkey to buy cats. One of the girls had
a basket & the other a handful of greenbacks
& I said "Where are you going my pretty
maids" To buy sweet little kitties sweet sir
she said - or something like it. Surely you
don't need so much money for cats I said

00204

O Yes ⁵² we do raise ⁰²³ them for they are beautiful
Angoras Sweet white Angora kittens, &
we are going to take them to New
York. I said "Well don't let the
donkey run away" "O no he won't run
away we have to whip him sometimes
to make him just walk. Just at this
moment the girls & the new cats have
come all of them beauties - very expres-
-ive faces & silky hair how you would
enjoy the fun of introducing your
magie & Mada to them.

Tell Mamma I enjoyed Mr & Mrs
Gilder ever so much. On the way here on the
car I was introduced to Joseph Choate
the great lawyer, & on Sunday Mr Gilder & I
dove over to his fine residence at Stockbridge
to dinner & I had a good long talk with
him about forests as well as glaciers etc.
Today we all go back to New York. This evening I
dine with Johnson & tomorrow I go up the
road to the Osburns. Then probably I dine
with Tesla. (I saw him in his workshop) then I suppose
I'll have to go to Florida & then Gladys home
00206

It is a bright autumn day
 The north wind is blowing
 swirling the brown & yellow leaves
 in heaps & shrubs & windrows
 & soon the trees will be
 bare & ready for winter
 These three days are the
 first real rest days
 I've had since I last saw
 you my dear Mrs Gilder
 was asking all about you
 & I showed her your pictures & she
 said they were lovely & like me
 I wish I could start straight home
 from these charming Berkshire hills
 I'll soon be back anyhow. Give my love
 to all & Maggie. Here are some Wintersgreens
 from the hill back of the house. Yours, My darling M.

00206
9174