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1898-12-01

Letter from Frank H. Scott to John Muir, 1898 Dec 1.

Frank H. Scott

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(Copy)

December 1st., 1898.

My dear Mr. Muir:-

We have received a letter from President Jordan of Stanford University asking permission to include in a book of stories about animals your contributions The Water Ouzel and The Dog and the Glacier from The Century Magazine. As you know, the first of these is included in your book on the Mountains of California, and we hope to include the other in another book of yours yet to be published by us. Hence, President Jordan's proposed publication did not seem to us consistent either with your interests or ours, and we were obliged to write to him regretting that we could not make the proposed arrangement. The fact is that we are almost daily in receipt of applications for permission to reprint much of our best material from our magazines and book list in other volumes, without any payment either to the author or the publisher; and as these books are issued as a business venture, with the expectation that they will be profitable to the publishers, it has not seemed to us wise, except in very rare cases, to give the desired consent. Any other course would simply lead to the practical presentation by us to other publishers of our most valuable copyright material for republication by them without any payment either to the author or to us.

I write thus fully, thinking that the matter may again be brought to your attention, and feeling sure that with this explanation you will thoroughly understand our position. Believe me

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANK H. SCOTT.

John Muir, Esq.,
Martinez, California.

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