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1899-01-24

**Letter from C[harles] S[prague] Sargent to John Muir, 1899 Jan 24.**

Charles Sprague Sargent

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**Recommended Citation**

Sargent, Charles Sprague, "Letter from C[harles] S[prague] Sargent to John Muir, 1899 Jan 24." (1899).  
*John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 2345.  
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*Jamaica Plain, Mass.,* January 24, 189.

My dear Muir:

Thanks for your note of January 10th with your cool proposition that I should tell you what to say about my book. It was a bad enough job writing it, you may be sure, without having the duty of reviewing it thrust on me also. You are the fellow that can do this job better than any one else and we expect you to make here the effort of your life.

Your specimen of Sequoia came this morning. It seems to me that it admirably confirms Miss Eastwood's theory that the cones require two years to ripen. Certainly on this specimen there are cones of two different years, the older and larger cones with fully mature seeds, and the smaller cones with immature seeds to ripen probably sometime next summer. The smaller cones, too, seem to me to have been produced on wood which was a year younger than that which bore the larger cones. Examine your tree again closely and you will see, I think, the difference in the degree of development of the two cones.

For the last week I have been laid up with another light attack of grippe which has left me with a rather bad cough and in a generally miserable condition, still it is nothing as compared with what I had in October. Mrs. Sargent is much better and able to go out for a little while each day, so I hope the family is on the mend.



Canby and I are both rather <sup>longing</sup> for the delights of that hotel in Rome and are beginning to talk about another trip in that region early in the spring to look at Crataegus in flower and other things which can only be seen in that part of the world. Are you going to join us? Why not? Having seen the Alleghany Mountains in the autumn, you ought now to take a look at them in the spring.

Faithfully yours,

C. S. Sargent.

John Muir, Esq.  
Martinez, Cal.

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