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Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1899 Feb 11.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

February 11, 1899.

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.
R. U. JOHNSON,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
C. C. BUEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Muir,

I was very glad indeed to get your letter of the 23d of January with its information that the forest reservations of California are rapidly going to destruction. If this is the case I want to know it. The one man that I know who could do more than any one else to stop this is John Muir of Martinez, California. I wish I had thought when he was in the East to ask him to go to see President McKinley on the subject, for I am sure that a word to him would be all that was necessary to accomplish this; or I might have spoken to his friend, Professor Sargent, who is also, I understand, interested in the same subject, and I am sure he would have taken Mr. Muir to see the President on this important matter; but sometimes one can accomplish more at a distance of six thousand miles than at a distance of six feet! I think it might not be presuming on the part of an American citizen if you would address a note to the President on this subject— or let us say, to the new Secretary of the Interior, marking it per-

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sonal, as otherwise it would fall into the hands of the Hon, the Land Commissioner.

My last letter to President McKinley on the general subject remains unacknowledged— not to say unanswered, and I have every reason to believe that that Honorable spoilsman is quite willing that the forest reservations shall be used to assist in his renomination. However, as soon as Mr. Hitchcock, the new secretary, comes to this country— as I believe he has not yet done— I shall take pains to see that he is apprised of the information in your letter. *All well.*

Yours faithfully,

R. H. Johnson

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