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1899-08-31

Letter from John Muir to [A. H.] Sellers, 1899 Aug 31.

John Muir

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Martinez, Cal. Aug. 31, 1899.

My dear Sellers

I was very glad to hear from you. I was thinking about you when your letter came. I hope that confounded devouring business will not be the death of you all before you are free from it. No wonder you are not feeling well. I don't think I could stand it a week. Your month at the Lake Club will do some good but you should come to the Sierras. I got back nearly a month ago but have made a short trip to the Calaveras Sequoias. The weather all through the voyage was fine & the views we had of the Fairweather Mountains, the St Elias Alps & their glaciers, the glaciers & mountain scenery in general of Prince Williams Sound were perfectly glorious. We had grand & exceedingly interesting views of icy glaciers, ^{smoking} volcanoes in Cook Inlet & along the Alaska Peninsula

& wherever we landed we found ourselves
wading in flowers. Especially flowering
are the shores of the Peninsula & Kodick
& Unalaska. One of the most beautiful
of the flowers & most effective in making
such purple masses is the Kanchatka
dwarf Rhododendron the stems are prostrate
but the flowers are large (an inch long one & a
half inch wide) & cover acres & miles in
royal purple. I wish I could tell you
about these wild gardens writing seems so
silly & unimportant. In Prince William Sound
we saw 11 glaciers of the first class descending
bergs in Yakutat & Drunchantment Bays
3 & in Glacier Bay 9. I think there are more
in Prince William Sound. I want to go back
& explore the many ice reaching fjords &
you should go too. The scenery
is there, & around St Elias I want the
best to try to see sketch it. Come on
out & let me tell you face to face, I do
believe I would talk Mrs Sellers' train. I saw
Keith a week ago he said he was pleased
to visit & is in cherry state of mind. Remember me to Frank
Ever Yours Jim Orrin. Do come out this winter