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Letter from J. H. Mellichamp to John Muir, 1903 Jan 14.

J. H. Mellichamp

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Wednesday, 14 Jan. '3

No. 12

To Prof John Muir -
Martinez, Cal.

My Dear Sir

I send you many
thanks for the California
paper wh^{ch} I received
this morning, — surely it is
a wonderful state & has
everything in its borders to
satisfy & delight the heart of
man! Were I some 10-15
or 20 years younger I think
I might be tempted to pull
up my stakes & even bid

farewell to the sea-islands
of S. C. — where my happiest
days have been spent, — but
I am too old now to move,
for I am seventy three, & I am
getting many ailments wh^{ch}
will bear their fruit some
day! It has been very cold
during the past week or
two, & I find myself hugging
the fire more sleep all
the time — glad that I am
not at the inhospitable
North as it has been so made by
the Demons of the Trust & of
all their Drilling. It looks
a little as if it wants to
snow, & I wish it would for a
change, — a condition wh^{ch}
we hardly ever see in her
— loved Christmas — at least

in the soft - mild region
 from ^{wh} I have Emigrated, -
 with I was then now, - I
 here for my old Home!
 I trust all are well
 in your home - yourself,
 & my M - and the young
 ladies. My little sick
 child - Ruth S. L. is
 now perfectly well, & get-
 ting as fat as she need
 be. I am

My dear Sir,
 Yours truly
 J. H. Medichaus

Does Quercus Texana grow in
 your region? - There are many trees
 growing in the streets, & a day or two ago
 little old John picked up in the street
 many acorns of the same wh I shall
 send to a Kewman to be planted in James Isl
 S.E. opposite Chester - They may do as well

the fornicator wh I sent him the 13th year of wh clausus all on his
 but please bring the follicles later than in N.O.

"X Ponderosa Thalia"

P.S.

Does Thalia deal -
 = bata * grow in your
 regions? I used in the old
 days to find it abundantly
 next to our old place in
 Lamar Island S.C, growing
 in old Lagoon & in
 Cypress land, & once during
 the war I collected specimens
 of the same wh were very
 fine, - If I go next summer
 to my old Haunts I shall
 collect a few specimens for
 the Herbarium if you'd care
 to have ^{them}. The leaves at least
 are fine, - fls small rather, &
 violet color I think, - The plant
 was once lost to Botanists in

Soft - but I'll refer you to Mr
 M. & Co. who I've seen & you'll see it again to me

'middletons' in the Ashley when it was abundant!

Wednesday, 14 Jan. '03.
N[ew] O[rleans] La.

To Prof. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Sir:

I send you many thanks for the California paper which I received this mornning,--surely it is a wonderful state and has everything in its borders to satisfy and delight the heart of man! Were I some 10, 15, or 20 years younger I think I might be tempted to pull up my stakes and even bid farewell to the sea-islands of S. C. where my happiest days have been spent,--but I am too old now to move, for I am seventy-three, and I am getting many ailments which will bear their fruit some day! It has been very cold during the past week or two, and I find myself hugging the fire more or less all the time -- glad that I am not at the inhospitable North as it has been so made by the demons of the Trust and all their deviltry. It looks a little as if it wants to snow, and I wish it would, for a change, a condition which one hardly ever sees in beloved Carolina, at least in the soft, mild region from which I have emigrated. Wish I was there now. I pine for my old Home! I trust all are well in your home -- yourself, and Mrs. M. and the young ladies. My little sick grandchild, Ruth St. Le is now perfectly well, and getting as fat as she need be.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

J. H. Mellichamp

Does *Quercus Texana* grow in your region? There are many trees growing in the streets and a day or two ago my little daughter Sophia picked up in the streets many acorns of the same, which I shall send to a kinsman to be planted on James Island, S.C., opposite Charleston. They may do as well as the genalebus which I sent him two or three years ago, and which clambers all over his front piazza bearing feowers and feccicles better than in New Orleans!

Does *Thalia dealbata* grow in your regions? I used in the old days to find it abundantly next to our old place on James Island, S.C., growing in old lagoons and in cypress land, and once during the war I collected specimens of the same which were very fine. If I go next summer to my old haunts I shall collect a few specimens for your Herbarium, if you'd care to have them. The leaves at best are fine -- flowers small rather, and violet colored, I think. The plant was once lost to botanists in South Carolina, but Elliott refers to James Island, and again to Mr. Middleton's on the Ashley, where it was abundant.