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1903-03-20

Letter from C. Hart Merriam to John Muir, 1903 Mar 20.

C. Hart Merriam

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It looks as if we would leave
Washington May 2 and arrive
in San Francisco about the middle
of the month, going via Santa Fe +
the Grand Canyon. I hope to
take the 3 girls along.

Congress did better by us than
usual this year (though not by me
personally). We are sending expeditions
to Mexico, Alaska, + Great Bear Lake
and shall have field parties, as usual,
in New Mexico + California.

Burroughs was here for a day or so
a few weeks ago + thought he might
go to California with us. He said
he would like to return John Muir's
call.

Every night when we tuck the
nets + covers we think of your
kind thoughtfulness.

The 3 girls give in kindest regards
(to you + yours). As ever
C. Hart Merriam

To John Muir

Washington
March 20, 1903

My dear Mr. Muir:

As you thought I was never
going to send you those photos!
Well, it certainly looked that way.
Washington is a good place for
some things but not for
photographers. When I
finally got a man started at
our work he had only got
well warmed up when he
suddenly took sick + fell into
bed with a fever and didn't
show up again for about 6 weeks.
Then he is naturally slow - like
Helen's brown horse.

Speaking of Helen reminds me that in her numerous letters she always forgets to tell us her choice of these stories. But her letters are awfully funny + her humor + the children laugh till the tears run down their cheeks every time one comes. Zenaida says they sound a little old for Helen and she suspects her father's influence is tending to make her prematurely antiquated; but Dorothy says they are just right, and we were all delighted with the one about the 3-legged cow and the bluejay. We all think she ought to typewrite these one and send it to Father's companion.

But why don't you ever show up at this end of the

line? Have you made up your mind to look fierce and die and die in California without giving your far away friends a chance to impose on you in their own homes? Too bad. I hope you are too busy writing book reviews + travelers guides!

Now I'm about to give you a big surprise. I'm a rival of Cook + Raymond + have determined to go into the traveling show business. Perhaps this does not describe it exactly. The thing is this, I have undertaken to 'conduct' a "specially conducted party" across the continent. This first time it is a party of bird cranks and their friends, with a strong Berbythian flavor on your account.