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1903-08-09

Letter from Charles Francis Saunders to [John Muir], 1903 Aug 9.

Charles Francis Saunders

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the subject, if the question is
not too great an intrusion
upon your time, and with
many thanks in anticipation

I remain

Sincerely yours

Charles Francis Saunders

A stamped envelope
is enclosed -

John Muir Esq

[17]

Pasadena, California

August 9/03

My dear Sir -

Though personally unknown
to you, I venture to write you
in quest of a little information
on a subject with which the
recent perusal of your fascinating
book on the "Mountains of California"
makes me think you are doubtless
familiar.

Last winter my wife and I
spent several weeks upon the
island of Santa Catalina, where
in our rambles about the hills,
we were often interested in ob-

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seeing the ravens which are very numerous there. We had never known them to be possessed of any note but the harsh "Caw" which everybody knows, until one day we came unawares quite close upon one perched upon a fence post on a high hill. He moved his head with great regularity from side to side and at the same time uttered in a low, musical tone, a phrase which may be written approximately:



and so on over and over again;

We listened to him entranced for quite a while, until by and by he flew away. His quiet song was so strange a performance, seeming as though it might be in rehearsal of some more public performance that he had in mind, that it has remained in our memories ever since, and we have thought that you could perhaps tell us what significance it has, and whether or not it is a usual thing with the raven.

We should indeed be grateful for any word of enlightenment you may be able to give us on