



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-08-19

Letter from John Muir to Louie [Strentzel Muir], 1903 Aug 19.

John Muir

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Harbin, thence to Mukden
 & thence to Peking which
 will require 8 or 10 days
 more of rail riding of most
 wearisome sort, but with
 views of a wonderful region,
 their rocks scenery flora
 people etc. by way of
 compensation. I had
 made up my mind to leave
 the Sargents here & go to
 Japan Shanghai etc. as
 I long for the cool sea.
 But Sargent advises very
 strongly against my going
 off alone & raises all
 sorts of objections, difficulty
 of arranging money matters
 etc. promises not to stay
 but a day or two in
 Peking or hope dirty Muk
~~den~~ (suggestion name)

Vladivostok Aug. 19. 1903

dear Lavin After many
 short stops here & there we
 are at last on the Pacific
 having crossed the whole
 vast breadth of Asia & now
 you don't seem so dread-
 fully far. We arrived yester-
 day morning very tired &
 dirty, having slept in our
 clothes the last 8 nights
 & the heat has been trying
 80 to 90° in the cars. & miserable
 uneatable food at the stations
 most of the. Here it is delight-
 fully cool - but the food is
 very poor. I'm resting
 today, while the Sargents are
 out botanizing. I suppose
 we will be here a few
 days longer. Then Sargent
 wants to the Amour for a
 day or two, thence back to

[37]

So I suppose I'll go on with time
as far as Peking or Shanghai - where
I hope to hear from you
once more. The whole
trip has been exceedingly
interesting far more so than
anything I had read had
me to expect. And now dear
wife & babes Heaven bless you
How glad I'll be to get home
Love to all. John Muir