



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1904-03-29

Letter from J. E. Calkins to John Muir, 1904 Mar 29.

J. E. Calkins

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DAILY, SUNDAY AND WEEKLY
EDITIONSLa Jolla, San Diego County, California
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

March 29, 1904.

Mr. John Muir,

Martinez, California:--

Dear Sir:--

As a devoted admirer of your literary work I should like to call upon you during my present stay in California.

Being uninformed regarding your whereabouts, and your wishes in case of such a request, I take the liberty of thus addressing you in order to learn where I may find you in something like a month, or possibly 6 weeks hence, and whether such a visit will be agreeable to you.

In this connection it is proper to say that, while I have seen some letters to the Democrat, they have been my observations upon the country, climate, conditions of living, etc. I have spent the winter here and hereabout, nursing a case of nervous breakdown from overwork and worry. My wife accompanies me. We had intended making a return to Davenport from Los Angeles by the Rock Island line via El Paso, but the Southern Pacific people have been so kindly urging us to see their territory that we may go to Portland, and in the event of thus passing near you I cannot let the opportunity go by without making an effort to visit the man whose pen has given me more pleasure and greater satisfaction than that of any other living man. Because you do

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not realize. I am sure, the hold you have upon the hearts of our family, or the pleasure your writings have given us. I have no designs of interview for newspaper use, unless you wish something of that kind, but want only a chat with you, for a few minutes if you cannot spare more.

I say, and ask all this with becoming humility, and a full recognition of the fact that you may have no time, however brief, to fritter away upon a transient visitor whom you may never see again, — and yet I should very much like to pay you that call, if it is convenient to you.

With great respect, I am

Very truly yours,

J. E. Perkins.