



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1904-07-18

Letter from John Muir to J. E. Calkins, 1904 Jul 18.

John Muir

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Martinez, California
July 18, 1904.

Mr J. E. Calkins,
Davenport, Iowa.

My dear Sir: You may be sure I sorely regret missing a visit from you, for good lovers of God's wildness are far from common even in these days of nature-books, nature-studies, & outings. I was in Australia when your kind letter to me was written, & did not get home until the end of May.

But you must come again. Editors should take a good long rest every year, a complete reviving rest, especially after long continued over work has brought on nervous prostration.

"Observations on the Country,"

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Climate, conditions of living etc["]
 in long letters to the Democrat
 are not good nerve cures,
 especially in these Southern
 lowland towns where real
 (unreal) estate agents make one
 dizzy with their confounded
 statistics & mean temperatures.

Come to the Sierra next spring
 & rest under a Sequoia or Sugar pine.
 Come direct to my house & make
 it your headquarters, & I'll tell you
 all about the best most hospitable
 groves. If you come by the Santa
 Fe get off at Muir station, near
 our house, If by the Southern Pacific
 stop at Martinez, If by the Union
 & Central Pacific you had better go
 on to San Francisco & there take the
 Santa Fe for "Muir" a distance of
 only an hour & a half - & let me
 know when to look for you a
 week or two in advance.

I have been away more than a year, traveled far, & seen a little of many countries. - The principal parks, gardens, & art galleries of Europe - Broad fertile Russia, - The Crimea, the great forests & the glaciers & white lofty peaks of the Caucasus, the broad billowy densely forested Ural mountains - vast level, fertile Siberia with its great rivers & woods, Beautiful Manchuria with its charming hills & dales & low forest-clad mountains, endless wheatfields, rich prairies & plains - Picturesque Japan, the mountainous island-dotted coast of China. - The Malay Archipelago. The loftiest peaks of the Himalaya with their glaciers & rivers, noble forests of deodar etc. - The green Nile valley between hot tawny deserts & its stupendous monuments of old Lang sene - Balmy palmy Ceylon - Wonderful & beautiful Australia & New Zealand whose people animals plants are all strange & novel. - The Philippines gloriously beautiful. Come & let me tell you all my trip

Ever faithfully Yours, John Muir

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