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Letter from John Muir to William Trout, 1904 Aug 10.

John Muir

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Martinez, California

Aug. 10, 1904.

William Trout.

Dear old friend:

Your kind letter of Aug. 2^d came yesterday laden with Meaford memories & Auld Lang syne in general, and with it came the draft that has given you so much trouble thus closing a transaction 40 years old, illustrating moral integrity & patience of a kind far from common in financial annals.

The news of your coming to visit me is delightful. I have many visitors & thousands of friends, but those of the old days have for me an immortal charm wanting in others however high & honorable & flattering: Often & often I look

longingly back into that blessed
old "Hollow" among the hemlocks,
hoping to revisit it, & I believe
I shall yet. Indeed I feel
quite sentimental about it.
It was so full of trees & mosses
& liverworts & wild life of so
many kinds, & its far reaching
associations I could almost
sing with Johnnie Boyce

"O! how I love the Sawmill!"
I remember nearly all of that
immortal poem. In the last
verse mechanics & religion were
curiously mixed, & both sense
& rhyme went a trifle wrong,
faults not uncommon in older
poets. Here it is

"It was God who made the sawmill
That stands beside the stream
I hope to go to him when I die
And in his Kingdom reign"

But if I allow myself to wander

I send herewith some old clippings I discovered with the hope you or the children may amuse you or them.

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into these old days this letter will spread far & wide like a Wisconsin prairie.

When you come to California come direct to my house & bring Charlie Jay with you. "Muir Station" on the Santa Fe railroad is on the side of our ranch & within an hour & a half of San Francisco. There are 2 morning & 2 evening trains to & from the city, so you can go & come to & from the meetings in the city, you refer to in your letter, every day. The first train from our station reaches San Francisco about 8.30 A.M. - time enough for any sort of meeting.

Let me know as soon as you decide the time of your visit so that I will be sure to be at home.

With kindest regards to Charlie & all your family - I am ever faithfully yours John Muir