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1904-09-11

**Letter from A. H. Sellers to John Muir, 1904 Sep 11.**

A. H. Sellers

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A. H. SELLERS

Hotel Metropole

Hotel Metropole

CHICAGO Sep't 11th 1904.

Our dear Mr. Muir:-

Just as we were about to leave our old house on Michigan Ave, the last of June, we received your splendid letter of June 16th last from Martinez, and I hurriedly answered it.

Yesterday, Fay, in handing me the mail, said "here is a newspaper sent you by Mr. Muir". Glancing at it I saw it was post marked "New Castle N S W" and said "well this explains why we have heard nothing from Mr. Muir, he has gone back to Australia". Tearing off the cover, I saw it was the "Daily Telegraph" Sidney Aug 6. 1904. It contained a marked 3 column article on " Our vanishing brothers. Northern tribes of central Australia- Messrs Spencer and Gillen's book- A valuable and interesting record."

Afterwards, looking the paper over, I found on the first page in red pencil " Marked copy F. W. G.", which explained who it was from. F.W.G.being Fred. W. Goding, Mrs Sellers' cousin, who is the U. S. Consul at New Castle New South Wales. He is quite a naturalist, and has sent me some valuable books on the aborigines of that country.

Now, to show you how natural it was for my wife and me to be misled by the address on the cover of the paper, I send it to you, with the envelope of your letter showing my address as written by you, from which you will see that the similarity in the handwriting is certainly remarkable.

We were all interested and delighted with your letter, and were astonished at how much you told us in the four pages. It gave us a splendid idea of your great travels, and what you saw, in a very few words.

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CHICAGO

Now, for fear you did not get my brief answer to your letter, I must, at the risk of repetition, tell you why we sold our house. Last year we were only in the house about two months, the winter being spent at Coronado Beach California, and the following summer at Oconomowoc and Puckawa lake. Returning from there Nov 15th we left on Jan'y 15th last for "Southern Cal," returning here about the first of last May. Soon after our return an "Israelite" commenced negotiating with me for the house, and inasmuch as we were about the only "Gentiles" left in the block- balance all Israelites- I finally sold to him the place, realizing \$50,000.00 in cash, being all that it had cost me more than 15 years ago. It took about two months to consummate the sale, get rid of our surplus "truck" (giving away six wagon loads) and pack up and store the balance in warehouse. We then took rooms in the "Hotel Metropole," a very fine family hotel at the corner of 23rd & Michigan Ave. We did this because we had no time to look up another house, and wanted time to carefully consider before building another home. We cannot, at present, give much attention to our future plans, because Mrs. Sellers' dear old mother is very ill, and at her age, 82, is in a very precarious condition. We cannot now make any plans for this coming winter, because if she continues as she is now, Fay will not want to go very far from her. We have been in the city all summer, and expect to remain, tho' we hope to be able to spend a couple of weeks or so at Puckawa lake, near your old home in Wisconsin, sometime next month.

Frank and his wife took dinner with us today, and we talked much about

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According to the eternal uniform of things literary

A. H. SELLERS

3420 MICHIGAN AVENUE

CHICAGO

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you. Frank said "I do hope Mr. Muir will now settle down to write, and give the world the benefit of the great knowledge he has acquired, in his own beautiful language", to which I say "amen". Frank has just returned from New York. He has been working for a long time on a big street railroad subway scheme for this city, but finds it hard to float just now. I think he feels, after this last trip to N. Y., quite discouraged, as he begins to talk about trying to get into something else. This, I fear, he will not find easy to do in these times. I told him that if he was not married, I would send him out to California, or the coast generally, to see what he could do out there.

He, and Fay join me in kindest regards, and best wishes to you all.

Sept 24. you say you thought I had gone to Australia  
+ I began to think you had all gone  
Sincerely yours  
A. H. Sellers

I have your letter you refer to  
The letter of Sep. 11<sup>th</sup> is the first I have  
received so the one you sent in June must be  
some person's very big mistake.  
I have been as busy as I began to think  
mine had been

Now that your fine American house is sold you must all  
come to Cal. as soon as you can, would you not have  
been the my neighbor. I am sure you can grow old (or young) happily  
by together - the glorious sun will then be our glorious backyard the Pacific  
our front when we can sail when we like, for fresh air to Alaska  
to the Andes for exercise & views of the noble aboriginal people of  
to South Africa & Madagascar to see the Great Pyramids, etc etc etc  
+ we can go back anytime to India for another look at the Himalaya  
While congratulating you on your freedom I can't help feeling a little sad  
at the loss of my home the only home I ever had in Chicago - I'm putting a  
little note on my pen trying to write another little book. I did the plan for 5 that  
but it seems hardly worth the while spending my precious time on them.  
When of course I can get them off my hands I don't know

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