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1904-10-18

Letter from James Murdock to John Muir, 1904 Oct 18.

James Murdock

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RICHARD H. STEARNS, Prest.
CHARLES W. DABB, Vice Prest.

New York, 18th Octr 1904

My Dear Mr. Muir

I got back to Philadelphia the other day & came on here with my wife today to go on board the "Oceanic" tomorrow. The weather was somewhat broken after leaving San Francisco but I had not much to complain of on that score. After joining the C. P. R. however my comfort as a Railway traveller in this great Continent was gone. The Carriages were filthy and crowded - so much so that I was glad to get a seat in a smoking room of a second class carriage one day from 2 a.m. - till 5 p.m. - I survived it all however & am here none the worse. The scenery about Glacier and Banff was really very fine but I am with you in thinking that the Mountains & Rocks of the Yosemite cannot be beaten by anything I have since seen. The train going east was about 8 hours late when I joined it at Banff and the one going west was 10 hours late on the same day at the same place. It began to snow at dusk

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& continued, snowing heavily when I entered
the train at 2 a.m. - By daylight I daresay there
were 6 or 8 inches of snow on the prairie but
during the forenoon it eased off & we soon left
the snow behind us - By the time that Verdun
was reached I cannot tell how much the train
was late, but so much that I was only able to
spend one day with my Edinburgh friend, there in-
stead of two - Then a day was lost at Winnipeg
but being Sunday I went to St. Andrews Church
there & heard the author of the "Man from Glenary"
& "The Sky Pilot" preach - Some time after leaving
Winnipeg another delay of 9 hours took place
in a narrow deep cutting owing to a fall of rocks,
which looked at one time very bad - We got thro'
however & I am hopeful now of a good passage
across the pond. My wife & I came on here today
& I lost no time ⁱⁿ calling on Mr. Johnson
of the "Century" from whom I had a very cordial
reception and from whom I have received the
Century Magazines for June 1895 (the discovery of
Glacier Bay) ^{and Sept. 1894} ~~the Alaska trip~~ ^{Sept. 1894} ~~Adventures~~
~~with a dog & a Glacier~~ ~~and Sept. 1894~~ ~~(John Muir by~~
~~Ray Stannard Baker)~~ - Then I went to the "Outlook"
Office & fortunately got the number for 6 June 1903
with Ray Stannard Baker's sketch of you - After
procuring a second copy of the last for my
wife's Philadelphia friend I asked how many
numbers they still had of it, & was told 3 - This I
mention to you as you thought it was all sold
out - Now I shall write no more till after I have
seen Mr & Maggie Curran when I will write you
again - Meantime with kindest regards to Mrs
Muir - your daughter - & yourself in which my wife
cordially joins me Believe me yours very sincerely
James Curdoch