



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1904-12-19

Letter from J. E. Mathewson to John Muir, 1904 Dec 19.

J. E. Mathewson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

Recommended Citation

Mathewson, J. E., "Letter from J. E. Mathewson to John Muir, 1904 Dec 19." (1904). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 2919.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/2919>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

[2]
to making him a visit some of these
days, when I have nothing to do, or when
I can leave my business in other
hands for a few months. If such
an event should happen, you
may expect to see me.

I suppose you will remember
Richard A. Proctor, the lecturer
on Astronomy the world over. He died
in 1889, I believe. His second wife
(an American woman) lives here
within a stone's throw of us. She is
married again to Dr. Smythe, an
Englishman. She travelled with Mr
Proctor & after his death, lectured
on the same subject both here &
the States. Very likely you have met
them both.

Myself & family have been in
the best of health since I wrote you
last. My son married some three
years since & has a little girl - photo
of himself & family enclosed. Our daughter

[1]

Fray Bentos,
Altrincham,
Cheshire.

Dec. 19th 1904.

Dear friend Muir.

There is no use
beating about the bush, I owe you
a letter & feel very much ashamed
of myself for having allowed it to
remain unanswered so long. I
do really think that you ought to
have reminded me of my negligence
and so given me a chance or rather
an opportunity of putting myself
right a long time since. 'Business
& before pleasure' is my only excuse.
I visit the Eastern States very often
but have never yet found time to
go so far West as California. My brother
Winchester lives at Port Angeles
Washington & I am looking forward

03481

Lottie, ^{is married} lives in Sheffield, but we ³⁷ see her every week.
Some two years since I purchased this house ("Frey Bentos"
named after a town in Uruguay in South America). It stands
by itself on a plot of land fifty yards square. The ground is
not large, but it takes ^{my} of a gardener all his time to keep
it in order. I often wish that I could live in an orange
bearing country like California, we get your oranges here
but I suppose that they are not to be compared with ~~the~~ ^{the}
fresh gathered fruit. I told you I believe that my diet
is fruit & nuts & the products of the earth. From the accounts
which I have read of your travels, you must be that way
inclined. Certainly we were vegetarians when we were
together at Madison. I have one of my letters written to my
mother, from Madison in 1862, in which I mention that
you & I walked cross the lake on the ice & visited the
Jusane Asylum. I remember it well, we could see
the fish through the ice. Can never forget the faces &
actions of the inmates. Have never been in one since.
Now I have told you a good deal about myself & hope
in return you will tell me how you are in health & spirits &
also all about your family. From a print in an American
Magazine published a year since, you look about the same.
Time must have been kind to you, money making ^{not} ~~has~~
caused you sleepless nights. You have much to be thankful
~~but~~ for, it is a pity that the ways of the world prevent ^{us} ~~us~~
of us from living as nature intended us to live.
Now write soon & I will try hard to do my duty to
my old friend & school mate.

Sincerely yours
J. C. Mathewson.