



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1904-12-20

Letter from G[eorge] Hansen to [John Muir], 1904 Dec 20.

George Hansen

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[17]

ADVERSE AFFECT TO EMINENT DOMAIN, MUNICIPALITIES AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS

It has come this way. I shall tell you all. We have kept up nicely  
Dec. 20th., 1964.

never looking "in fact and treatment" (our mortgage) I had put all in my

wife's family trust, and no words ever passed on either shoulders.  
Good Man,

But some things would year out in spite of care, and the stocks of  
How often haven't I thought about writing to you, and every

time, with the mere intention, my eyes have not had sight enough to map  
the line "she has told me at more than one time" - "I can not bear it any longer to have these things on

out a way for these crooked fingers of mine on this blinding array on a  
I have ere dawned of no such "they have" - "I have ere dawned of no such

keyboard. Verily, there was never I was a time when I was so strong  
while I am so weak. The brave wife and I surveyed the situation a little

while since, and when we saw the bottom of the vessel, the brave soul  
of the best Hansen family "at the way I read it as I believe"

stiffened up in pride, and decided on our course, a course laid down  
in merciless dealing even for a Christmas tide, a time of all times,

and more so for us than others as it marks the 15th anniversary of our  
wedlock. But I would not stiffen. I agreed with my God to accept

my tribulations. I had sown, she had watered, and would he withhold  
the increase? Never. I tell him to make a Christmas for this house,

I said. And I did. I appealed to every one of our friends, and told  
them with what gift I charged them. We they shall bring in their golden

sheaves, one and all, from the candles of the tree to light our souls to  
the orange to guide our vision (oh, man, I can hardly write these

words to you. The thorn in my flesh is tearing this wretched body,  
while the christ-child of ours plays in happiness around me, and the poor

wife, beginning to suspect from some signs what I have done, is on the  
way down town, not to buy for us, God forbid, nay, she is going to

it a few more days, and she would not say good bye to me as she left.)  
you took my little story of some days back for my appeal. God guided you

when you did so, for I had no thought of it till a few days later. I  
would have written though, if need there had been with you. Everybody

else is told what to provide, you only would not have been told, but been

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been asked for what you sent , though in a little less amount . But since  
it has come this way , I shall tell you all . We have kept up nicely (   
never lacking " in food and raiment " . ( our mortgage I had put all in my  
wife's family trust , and no burden ever rested on squarer shoulders).  
But some things would wear out in spite of care , against the attacks of  
needle and thread . " I can not bear it any longer to hang those things on  
the line " - she has told me at more than one time - --- " Women , I said  
" they are banners of honor " . They have " Sperry's best family flour"  
printed all over their patches . But that is merely a misprint . " The  
flower of the best Hansen family " is the way I read it as I beheld the  
knuckles that have disfigured these once slender hands on the washboard.  
What but muscles of love could hold these threads of rotten curtains  
together , and make them last " just once more " for the third time . And  
werent they simplest kind of Swiss to begin with ? - Friend of our home,  
you whom God blesses with the deepest insight in our affairs , deeper  
than she has who bore me , you said more than you know when you said you  
send your gift " for the New Year " . Who do you mean the NEW  
YEAR that breaks with me every year . But God permits us to translate  
and apply it verbatim . Taft & Pennoyer , the best store in Oakland  
has a true reduction sale every New Year throughout all departments . That is  
the day we make our purchases , and this time with the gold that you  
warmed in its red color with your heart's wish . And as we shall lower  
the " flags of honor " on Monday on our opthalms , up shall go your stan-  
dard " , and " God has counted it to you for righteousness " already  
this hour . And no more shall her hand iron these curtains in the bedroom  
into which I had to solitaire myself ever since afflicted . No , divide  
the gift of yours , and there shall be a necktie or so for this annua-  
sapling of ours , so that I can report honorably and truly to the God of  
I .

would have written though , it need there had been with you  
else is told what to provide , you only would not have been told , but been

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us all , that you , John Blair and all your house , have divided your coat with us .

But now better news than all this , better because it comes direct from Him. While all this was going on , He moved the feet of a man by the name of George T. Clark . It is he who is librarian of the S.F. public library . He was again here last night , and as the North Light stands there a true sign , I know that George T. Clark shall be charged by Jehovah to give me the work of designing for his place in Menlo Park . God opened my seeing eye , and as an inspiration , I was prepared to work out an idea for his grounds, that is a delight and a satisfaction while it leaves room near the backyard for a pig, in a pen .

And what is good to know : every friend that has now been asked to contribute a gift , they , one and all , will rejoice doubly , first because they had an opportunity to make this the most blessed Christmas they ever heard of , and , secondly , because hence forward we shall have "added unto us " what is ours since the we travel our path in righteousness.

Put one more redberry into your vase , and as you make room at your hearth for all of yours , make room also for this small lot - for - " who is my father and mother and brother than those that do the will of my father in heaven ?

Love to all  
John R. Hansen