



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1904-12-27

Letter from George Hansen to [John Muir and Family], 1904 Dec 27.

George Hansen

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GEO. HANSEN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

2705 HEARST AVENUE, BERKELEY, CAL.

ADVISORY ARCHITECT TO PARK COMMISSIONS,  
MUNICIPALITIES AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS

and brought Roland his new all painting . Is it hard to be big and  
knew by the child of his father's eyes? When did we last  
upon the waters? --- It must have been a group that rolled off our  
We are fools in our wisdom . Thought that we would have to show  
the world a face of light . And , behold , it is a miracle

And it came as I was told --: there was no Christmas like  
our Christmas . Papa told the boy that Santa Claus ' sack bursted when  
he came near this roof . " You cant get 'most into the diningroom , papa ,  
was his way of putting it . - Next morning when he stood around in the cold  
bedroom where mother helped me , she told him to go to the ki warm kitchen  
and play , " What have I got to play with ? " came forth the most mourn-  
full answer . And , verily , if he didnt get out the old carpetsweeper  
by nightime , and played automobile around mother 's stove .

And it came as I was told . George T. Clark came , and so did his  
wife , and so did his son , And they told me that I might consi-  
der myself engaged for the work , and go ahead . - " I knew you were on  
the way for that purpose " , I said . - " How did you know it ? " was his  
query . - " I knew it the day you first came to this house , " I told him .  
He asked what form of contract to make . And I said , " Use your own words  
and add all that you can think of beside what I told you . You cannot bind  
me more to my work than I bound myself .

The good mother sends her good thanks for your kindness. She is going  
down to the post office to cash the order, and the boy is to drop this  
message .

Five people that I worked for in the past sent presents, four unloo-  
ked for . And the present of all ? It was from the laboring man who  
did for me the first stroke of work here 8 years since. His cow's milk  
has nourished me often. But today came the proud ten year old boy of his

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*myself*

and brought Roland his first oil painting . Is it hard to be gigged and  
kissed by the child of an illiterate scoundrel ? When did we cast bread  
upon the waters ? --- It must have been a crumb that rolled off our palms

We are fools in our wisdom . Thought that we would have to show  
the world a face of flint . And , behold , it is a ~~misanthropic~~  
And it came as I was told :- there was an ~~open heart~~

*Christmas*  
Papa told the boy that Santa Claus' back ached when  
he came near this roof . You can get most into the dining room, papa,  
was his way of putting it . - Next morning when he stood on in the cold  
bedroom where mother helped me , she told him to go to the kitchen  
and play . " What have I got to play with ? " came forth the next morn-  
ing . And , verily , if he didn't get out the old carpet sweeper  
by himself , and played automatic around mother's stove .

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