



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1895-04-23

Letter from James D[avie]Butler to John Muir, 1895 Apr 23.

James Davie Butler

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THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN,
MADISON.

REUBEN G. THWAITES,
Secretary
ISAAC S. BRADLEY,
Librarian

April 23, 1895.

John Muir.

My dear friend. I shall be glad to hear of your well known coming words -

Two months ago I heard some rumors of a plot to kill me on the Ides of March - with kindness. All details were, however, kept so secret that the surprises were manifold.

Discourses might have been more deadly than daggers - dealing a slower death - But they were all short. The actors, as I told them, could not have done better, if they had performed at a real funeral and not at a rehearsal. The mayor declared the gathering ought to be in the city-hall where a whole cityful could share, while the Gov. said that I was a legislative chaplain the Capitol was the most fitting-place. It is sweet to say with the Shunamite (2 Kings IV:13) I dwell among mine own people. At the next club-meeting I gave a surprise, namely 58 photos inscribed each with my name and with some member's.

01974

Anna was here till three weeks ago. She then went to Superior. Her last letter describes her evening reading of your delightful mountains to her brothers.

You know my outlooks - south through the dr. to the noble, dome, north across the nobler lake, and east upon the vilas grove. - Inside - I am always mixing new books and old, each eyeing each.

The Legislature voted \$180,000 to build a fire-proof for our lib. etc. - on ground freely given - just north of the stone house (De Forest's) at the foot of University hill. - all for us - not for the Univ. -

I have not only preached several times, but have lectured in the University - the last flare up of the candle."

What I most thank God for is ability to read or write all my waking hours - and friends on every side who make Madison as sweet to my soul as in its first verdure it is restful to the eye.

The grace of Heaven,
Before, behind us, and on either hand,
enwheel us round!

Respectfully. James D. Butler.