



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-01-28

Letter from [John Muir] to O. O. Wayland, [19]05 Jan 28.

John Muir

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[First draft of letter, in note-book]

Martinez, Jan. 28, '05.

Mr. O. O. Wayland,

Dear Sir:

I thank you very much for your long painstaking account of the changes being made about my first American home.

My father first settled on the farm you describe when he came from Scotland in 1849. It was then altogether unbroken in prairie wildness, and the picture of its lily-rimmed lake and its flowery ferny meadows and hills has always been held in loving memory. Change after change followed the settlement of the country in general, but the change you have described is far the greatest of all, and one I could never have imagined. More than ever I look fondly back to the time of its perfect beauty before it felt the touch of eager restless human action.

I have wandered far and wide over this beautiful world, but nothing more beautiful have I seen than that little green lake and meadow and its surrounding sandy hills in the "Oak Openings" of Wisconsin. What I thought of it will in part appear in an address I made a few years ago before the S. C./in S. F., a copy of which I send you with this. The pictures you offer to send me I shall be very glad to get. Thanking you again, I am,

Faithfully yours,

[John Muir]