



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-04-26

Letter from [John Muir] to James Davie Butler, 1905 Apr 26.

John Muir

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Apr. 26/05

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James
Dear Davie Butler.

with all my heart I
congratulate you on ^{your} 90
long happy whirls through
the starry heavens, all of
them serene & beautiful
like the stars themselves

How well you have borne
the burden of joy & grief,
heat & cold of your 90 year
day, & in the midst of it
all going again & again
round the world like a
moon. Surely few lives
have been happier than
yours, always doing
some good, radiating
smile-beams through

^{stead, bush & true like a tree}
dark & light in all sorts of weather & fortune
Happy man! God bless to you for the remainder of your ^{years} & for the yearless life beyond.

00197

You inquire about Burbank. Strange
to say I never met him. He has
been so busy in one field I in
another. Nevertheless I in
Long ago recognized him
at a distance as a rare man
a genius from his marvellous
industry & insight in making
plus efforts than his fame
has gone abroad over
& even his immediate
Santa Rosa neighbors
are beginning to know
him

Copy taken
of Jim. to
Prof. B. Allen

00197
#9188

Apr. 26, '05.

James
Dear Davie Butler:

With all my heart I congratulate you on your 90 long happy whirls through the starry heavens, all of them serene and beautiful like the stars themselves.

How well you have borne the burden of joy and grief, heat and cold of your 90 year day, and in the midst of it all going again and again round the world like a moon. Surely few lives have been happier than yours, always doing some good, radiating smile-beams through dark and light, steadfast and true like a tree in all sorts of weather and fortune. Happy man! Good luck to you for the remaining years and for the yearless life beyond.

Ever your faithful scholar, admirer and friend,

[John Muir]

You inquire about Burbank -- strange to say I never met him. He had been busy in one field, I am another. Nevertheless I long ago recognized him at a distance as a rare man, a genius from his marvellous industry and insight in making flowers and fruits. Now his fame has gone abroad over the world and even his immediate Santa Rosa neighbors are beginning to know him.

[Above letter inscribed, in Muir's handwriting,
"Copy letter of J.M. to Prof. Butler"]

[Envelope containing this letter inscribed, in Muir's handwriting,
"One of my last letters to Prof. Butler, Madison, Wis."]