



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-05-15

Letter from Annie K. Bidwell to John Muir, 1905 May 15.

Annie K. Bidwell

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affection for, and confidence in you
would assure the Park. I de-
clined to ask this of you, but
Mr Benjamin was so persistent
this evening that I consented, es-
pecially as he pushed General
to the front at the Cal. Association,
and is to issue a brochure on
that line, soon. General would be
opposed to all this, and I am op-
posed to my part in it, but the
enthusiasm of others makes me
seem to them disloyal to General if
I refuse to help them, so I am
between two fires! Fortunately you
know me well enough to know

[1]
1711 G St. Washington D.C.
May 15, 1905.
Dear Mr Muir,
Mr Benjamin & Mr Garver
(the latter until recently promoted,
an employee of Forestry Department)
insist on my writing you some-
thing which I am reluctant
to write, but they are working
for General's sneering and
I think it my duty to help.
Mr Benjamin has just called
to see me on this topic and
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said that he would write
Dr Jordan, and see Mr Puchok
about naming the new Forest
Reserve including Lassen Butte,
for General. The San Francisco
Call of Apr. 12 had a very
fine editorial advocating that
there be a National Park named
for General Bidwell. My friend
sent me clippings from this Call,
and when I showed Dr Benjamin
the article he insisted that
the Park and statue should
both be secured. Mr Garver

is the gentleman^{E33} who spoke so
eloquently for General at the Wash-
ington "California Association"
and set the thought in motion
at the society, that General's claims
were equal if not superior to
any other. He claimed "far su-
perior". Mr Garver urged me to
ask you to write Pres. Roosevelt
just such a letter as you wrote
Dr Benjamin, about General,
asking him to name a Park
for General and that the President's

That I would not of my own
 accord push General to the post.
 I did say that it would be
 strange if this Lassen District
 so beloved by him, and which
 he tried to have preserved
 years ago, (and the road
 he made) should bear
 his name. But I never
 dreamed of furthering the
 proposition.

Dr Benjamin made
 me promise to write you at

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once, as I go ²⁶¹ to Philadelphia
early in the morning, and it
was ten O'Clock when he left.
It is now much later and
I am so tired packing, and
am still lame! But the
worst of it is that I do not
like to write you as I am
doing. I did feel free to
write you in behalf of the
effort for Benjamin made
at first! Please do not

pay any attention to this if
not agreeable to you to do
so. I am already indebted to
you beyond power of express-
ing the same.

Some day I will write
you a pretty letter to show
that I can write better than
this! With love to each of the
precious family, yours gratefully
Ann K. Bidwell.