



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-08-07

Letter from Bailey Millard to John Muir, 1905 Aug 7.

Bailey Millard

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THE COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE
1789 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

August 7 1905

Dear Mr. Muir:

I am here on the tripod in the Cosmopolitan office, and have been thinking a heap about you, particularly since I read your beautiful essay in the Outlook and Mr. Johnson's biography of you.

Could you not write a short article for us descriptive of some of the most perilous moments of your life while exploring mountains or glaciers when confronted by bears or rattlesnakes? I should like this for a series of articles of personal reminiscences of noted writers in this country. The article should be of about four thousand words in length, for which I could pay you one hundred ^{and} fifty dollars. Remembering your literary methods, I should like to remind you that in this case it will not be necessary to put so much of long-considered and carefully-worded writing into your text. It is not so much an essay that I want as a merely descriptive article full of human interest. I do not care if the incidents have been published previously, as a collection of them now for the first time would in itself constitute an original paper. Or, if you would not care to prepare an article on that subject, wouldn't you like to tackle a paper descriptive of your visits to New York and of the impressions which you gained there, everlastingly swatting the town, as I know you are capable of doing, and tell of the folly of people huddling together in such an absurd fashion as is found here. I do not mind telling you that this article would quite suit my present mood, and would be

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gladly hailed by me. ^{But,} ~~Esq.~~, as I cannot get on top of a skyscraper and preach to the multitude on this subject, I am awfully anxious to get somebody else to do it. By contrasting this stupid city and its dull brick perspective with the woodland wilds in which you pass your time, I think you could make a fine article, particularly as there is a large back-to-nature sentiment afloat just now. This article would be about the same length as the other and would be paid in the same proportion.

Hoping that you and Mrs. Muir are well, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Bailey Millard

John Muir, Esq.

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