



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1905-08-08

**Letter from Irving Fisher to John Muir, 1905 Aug 8.**

Irving Fisher

Yale University  
Department of Political Economy

New Haven, Conn. Aug. 8, 1905.

Mr. John Muir,

c/o The Outlook Co., N.Y.

My dear sir:-

Not having your address, I

am trying to reach you through the "Outlook" from the pages of which I have recently been receiving enjoyment by reading your articles on the Yosemite. When in California, and returning from the Yosemite, I stopped at the place where you were then living, hoping to meet you; but you were then, I think, in Alaska, and I lost that pleasure. I remember I left with you a letter of introduction from our mutual friend, Mr. Gifford Pinchot.

I am now writing, not in regard to the Yosemite, but to ask if you might not be able to help me in an investigation I am now making as to the relative endurance of flesh eaters and flesh abstainers, by supplying me with your own experience. I am told that on your expeditions you are accustomed to live onhardtack and tea. <sup>Is this true?</sup> May I ask whether, in your ordinary diet, you include flesh, and if so whether, in changing from a flesh- to a fleshless diet and back again, you notice any difference in your endurance? I am trying to collect quite an extended series of statistics by correspondence with persons using different dietaries, all over the world. The information received from each individual will be used, without the name. The more definite the facts can be made, the more valuable they are, as

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Yale University  
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mere impressions count for very little except for the person who feels them; and of course, in order to make one's statements valuable or convincing, it is necessary to be very conservative and careful, so that one is certain not to over-state the side of the case which he has come to believe is correct.

Can you refer me to any others who have had experience with a fleshless diet, whether or not it has been a successful experience?

If you are at all interested in these subjects you probably have seen the extensive work on nutrition which my colleague, Professor Chittenden, has been doing here at Yale, and which has quite overturned the theories of Atwater and other physiological chemists.

Hoping that you can aid me without too much inconvenience, I am

Yours very truly,

*Irving Fisher*

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