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1907-03-18

Letter from Annie K. Bidwell to John Muir, 1907 Mar 18.

Annie K. Bidwell

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a break-down, but with the same blue sparkling loving eyes, and gentle voice, and glowing heart for her friends as of yore. She walked with difficulty, but walked, for almost an hour, in search for photographs and other things which she asked Miss Watson to find for me, and which were found, with one exception. Though Miss Watson thought they were not there. No failure of will, or of mind, or of heart. Dear lovely Mrs Gray! What a brave unsuspecting person she is. I love her and admire her inexpressibly.

I determined to go to see her (when I went East if possible, and did! to my great satisfaction. We talked of you & our camping party and were refreshed. Will you not come and bring your dear daughter? Say "Yes" and confer happiness on your heartite
Annie H. Jewell

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RANCHO CHICO, CALIFORNIA

March 18, 1907.

My dear Mr Muir.

This is to ask you to bring your daughter and renew your acquaintance with Rancho Chico, this Spring, as soon as the weather settles into its usual Spring attractiveness!

It will not be the Rancho Chico it was when General gave it such a charm, as he only could. (But there will be God's woods, and birds & squirrels, and Creek, and a hearty glad welcome from me. Also I have long wished to know your dear daughters who used to write you of their (or her), singing for the "bonny Waterfalls" which you had promised

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should be trusted.

I had the great pleasure of a visit from your friend John Swett, last summer, who told me one of your daughters "was being married" while he was my guest. I proposed telegraphing my congratulations but interruptions precluded. Mr Swett was a charming guest, whom it was a privilege to entertain. His mission here was to address Chico State Normal School on educational matters.

My sister and I enjoyed your Christmas greeting which she received while I was with her, for I only returned from Washington on March 8th having gone East Sept 20th. As I had a long visit with the dear ones I also was three weeks in Penna and divided three more between Boston, Hartford, Rochester N. Y. and New York City. My sister intended writing

her thanks for your kind remembrance at Christmas time, but did not succeed owing to guests with her much of the winter - (besides myself.) He did not accomplish much which we planned.

I received last summer such a cordial invitation from Lady Hooker to visit her and Sir Joseph that it was a real disappointment not to be able to do so. Also, they sent me a New Year's greeting, in dainty form, which was very kind when they have so many claims on their time and thought. Lady Hooker said that Sir Joseph was in better health than for years past, - all of which you may know as well as I!

I went to Cambridge expressly to see dear Mrs Gray, foster with me and found her quite a sufferer from