



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1907-01-01

Letter from John Muir to [Charles A.] Keeler, [1907].

John Muir

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Dear Mr Keeler

Here are a few more odds & ends on Hatch Hetchy.

In a former application Manson ^① stated in a pamphlet that "all other sources are inferior to (H.H. & Lake Eleanor) this in purity."

On the contrary it is less pure than the other Tuolumne sources outside the Park, because hundreds of tourists camp on the upper Tuolumne Meadows & in H.H. every summer & when roads are made there will be thousands for every one on the streams outside the Park in the forest reserve.

② "That H.H. is only a common low lying meadow." It is on the contrary a charming park even more beautiful than Yosemite in ~~the~~ its gardens & groves.

③ "That making a lake of it would make it more beautiful." Grossly untrue. As well say making Golden Gate Park or Central Park of New York into a lake or reservoir would render them more beautiful.

In short every argument
for damming H. H. would apply
with equal force to damming
Yosemite.

To say that only the Hatch Hatch
water is available for San F. water
supply is like saying that only
the water shed from a single
row of shingles is fit to drink -

Mr Phelan is reported as saying
that H. H. is inaccessible 9 mos. of
the year & uninhabitable the other 3
on account of mosquitoes.

It is accessible all the year & is
not more mosquito-ful at any
season than Yosemite.

Also that 1000s of valleys as beautiful
as H. H. are to be found in the Sierra.

On the contrary none are to be
found in the Park excepting
Yosemite itself. While its location
as related to other great features of the
Park make it supremely important
etc etc etc. Ever yours faithfully
John Muir