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Letter from John Muir to Asa K. McIlhaney, 1913 Jan 10.

John Muir

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Exact copy

Martinez, Cal., Jan. 10, 1913.

Mr. Asa K. McIlhenny,
Bath, Penn.

Dear Sir; I thank you for your fine letter, but in reply I can't tell which of all God's trees I like best though I should write a big book trying to. Sightseers often ask me which is best - the Grand Canon of Arizona or Yosemite. I always reply that I know a show better than either of them - both of them.

Anglo-Saxon folk have inherited love for oaks & heathers. Of all I know of the world's 250 oaks perhaps I like best the macrocarpa, chrysolepis, lobata, Virginiana, agrifolia, and Michauxii.

Of the little heather folk my favorite is Cassiope. Of the trees of the family the Menzies arbutus, one of the world's great trees.

The Hickory is a favorite genus, I like them all - the pecan, the best.

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of flower trees Magnolia + Liriodendron
 and the wonderful baobab, of conifers
 Sequoia gigantea the noblest of the
 whole noble race, and Sugar pine
 King of pines, + silver firs especially
 magnificient. The grand larch forests
 of the upper Missouri + of Manchuria
 and the glorious deodars of the Himala-
 laya, Anacardias of Brazil + Chile +
 Australia. The wonderful Eucalyptus,
 200 species, The New Zealand Metro-
 sidoros + Agathis. The magnificient
 Liriodendron of the Amazon + the palm
 and treefern + treegrass forests - +
 in our own country the delightful
 Linden + Oxydendron + maples +
 so on without end. I may as well
 stop here as anywhere.

Wishing you a happy New Year and
 good times in God's woods -
 Faithfully Yours
 John Muir.