



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-03-21

Letter from Katharine Hooker to John Muir, [1913] Mar 21.

Katharine Hooker

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"Starting engine" C13

3277 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco

March 21.

My dear friend

How good

of you to send me the
advance copy of your
new book! I take it as
an honor, and a token of
warm friendship and
it takes its place with
my other treasured books
from you. Did they persuade
you to change the title?
I liked "When I was
a Boy" better than its
present name. I imagine
you let other people have
their own way about
what you look upon

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non-essentials. Any way I shall enjoy reading it out again and at the same time remembering how it was written under my roof. Your presence there during those strange stormy times was oil on the waters. Who then could have dreamed a quiet harbor was so near - in point of duration? I hardly know why, but true calmness does not appear to have surrounded me ~~yet~~ yet. I wonder if so many years of tossing and distress and uncertainty require long again serenity? I

2 [3]
was so distrustful and blamed for doing the wrong thing that I find it hard to believe in myself or to trust that I am doing what is worth while.

But we are well, tho' Marianne is rather tired after her steady labor at the college. I don't want her to take the position for a second year. What should you think if we three, ^{Marianne and I} Elsie spent the coming summer in Europe? That is what we are planning now. It seems to be the fine thing that tempts Marianne. She loves traveling.

had a dear letter from you
 last month, and I mourned
 a little, and smiled a little
 over it. You sound some-
 what lonely and I don't
 believe you are stoking
the engine sufficiently
hardly. You work yourself
 very hard and feel yourself
 too little. I know what
 a pleasure there is in
 work, I had so much
 quiet happiness out of
 writing my one little book,
 but you forget to take
 care of yourself.

I put in this letter
 to you which was just

found its way back to
 me, to show you what
 a journey it has made,
 not because there is
 any value in it.

Yours affectionately

yours

Katherine Tucker

Do you like this little
 picture better than
 the others?