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Letter from John Muir to Helen [Muir Funk], 1913 Mar 27 .

John Muir

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"To explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information concerning them; to enlist the support and co-operation of the people and the Government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada Mountains."



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San Francisco, March 27, 1913.

Darling Helen:-

I am very much relieved to get your letter. I was afraid that you were sick and did not want to let me know. As to the furniture that you mention, you are welcome to all of it and I talked the matter over with Wanda and she said she would go right about it with Tom and see that it was all properly packed and shipped immediately as soon as it could be got together. I am glad that you are going back to the desert because there is always danger that even in that sunny south that you might be attacked by the grippe, and it is a fine thing that you not only find perfect health there, but that you so fully enjoy it. I sympathize with you in your love for those mountains and the various lights they show, truly a fairyland at times, so unlike what is usually called a desert. It is a desert in the same sense as the new Jerusalem is a desert.

I have been hoping to get down to see you, but I know that it would only make more work for you and you have so much trouble in keeping servants, besides the house is hardly large enough, and then into the bargain, when I gathered all my notes on Alaska and put them into shape so that I could work them up and put them together, I found that it was a very difficult job and would take a long time, and if I should leave my room, I would have to gather up all those notes, put them together in bundles again and take them down to the Bank Vault, so I have been trying to get a first draft of the book and then get a typewriter and get it put together, but it is a very long job and will probably be way into summer before that book is ready for the publisher- that is another reason why I have not been down.

In moving, take things easy, don't hurry, don't overdo in getting everything to suit you, but settle down a little at a time. I suppose that the stuff will all be shipped to Daggett. As to the few books I left at your house and odds and ends of clothing, simply tell Buel to put them in a box and send them up to Martinez by express, so that I will have everything together, and by the way I think that the little daguerreotype that I had which was given to Buel to be framed I have not received yet. Ask Buel about that and be sure to put that in the box.

I have managed to keep warm and have had no colds this winter, and am perfectly well, although I get pretty tired and sometimes a little hungry.

Always remember that your health is the main thing, that no expense stands in the way of anything that you need for your comfort and Health. Goodby darling, I will begin to make the old journeys to Daggett after you get settled.

Ever your devoted father,