



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-06-18

Letter from G[orge] P. Ahern to John Muir, 1913 Jun 18.

Gorge P. Ahren

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Recommended Citation

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P.S. at last I have a fine table top for you. Do you want it?
Can ship it to Fuzco via an Army Transport etc

IN REPLY ADDRESS
DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY,
MANILA, P. I.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF FORESTRY
MANILA

June 18/13

My Dear Mr Muir

Many thanks for your
Kind thoughtfulness in sending me the
story of your boyhood & youth. It is a really
wonderful story of hardship, perseverance &
cleverness. Apparently you took it all
without rancor. It should be an inspiration
to boys who have neither money ^{nor}
influence. It shows what can be accomplished
against frightful odds. I am deeply
interested because I am interested in
several poor boys who have fine antecedents
but now very poor. I am helping them to
help themselves. After getting their confidence
& interest in me my first move is to secure their
promise to abstain from liquor & tobacco until
21 yrs old. Then I find some way for them
to earn money to pay for their education

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In my own office there are a large number
of Filipino clerks - not one receives a
promotion unless he receives a good report
from night school. The best two receive prizes
at Christmas & a letter of congratulation.
I make them study English, bookkeeping, history
& stenography. It works like a charm.
How are you getting on? - I wish you could
spend another visit in the Philippines.
We have made progress - our Forest School
is a success. The entrance class this year are
almost all High School graduates. They
take a 2 year course. We have several students
from China - will take 4 a year & when the
service starts in China we may have
something to say as to the organization &
policy. When my graduates have had
4 years service I send them to their home
provinces where I use them as missionaries
to build up a sentiment in favor of conservation.
What results this policy would have accomplished in
the U.S? If 10 Native sons graduates of forest schools were
naming the California ^{or Colorado} service, there would be more enthusiasm
please write to me sincerely G. S. Allen