



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1913-12-02

Letter from G. Frederick Schwarz to John Muir, 1913 Dec 2.

G. Frederick Schwarz

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Had your life's story then been written I should have wished to ask you more about those wonderful mechanical inventions, which then I only knew of in the vaguest way. Now, as I read about them more fully, I am surprised at this novel expression of your life and its interests; and my surprise is the greater because, surely, it is only rarely ^{that} literary mastery and poetic

[1]

Brookline, Mass.

December 2nd, 1913.

Dear Mr. Muir:

When I sent you a letter some six weeks ago I did not foresee that I should so soon have occasion to write to you again. I have just finished the first volume of your autobiography and I cannot help telling you how much it interested me, for the

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reading of it seemed like listening to the intimate and chosen conversation of a friend, through which there constantly ran an undertone of comment on life's lessons, though never insistently expressed. And surely some of the experience was deeply and sternly acquired and makes us wonder how great must be the natural buoyancy and hopefulness of spirit and the love of life's wonderful pageant to have withstood so many buffetings of the body and sore trials of the mind. Let those who complain under the weight of lighter burdens take heart in the assurance that, so long as we keep courage and look up, much can be endured.

When I spent a day with you, August of last year, at Martinez, we talked of a number of things.

after long perseverance and
patient labor.

With many good wishes
for your health and welfare,
believe me

Faithfully Yours,
G. Fred'k Schwarz.

P.S.

Hetch Hetchy is uppermost in the
minds of your eastern friends during
these stirring days. Am sending a
number of "night telegrams" to Senators
this evening, hoping that justice and
right may prevail.

imagination are found united
with an inventive genius for
mechanics in one and the same
person. Then, also, I should like
to have known more of the
habits and appearance of the
Indians in your boyhood days,
and of the nameless passenger
pigeon, and one or two other
things that you speak of in your
book. Not that anything lacks a

clear and sufficient explanation, only one is inclined to talk over and discuss such interesting matters at leisure.

When your second volume appears I hope it may reveal as fully as can be the secret of how you acquired your literary style. There are passages in some of your earlier books that I

have read repeatedly and always with the same pleasure; they never seem to lose their freshness. Such results can be accomplished, I suppose, only through a deep interest in and clear knowledge of the subject matter and a real love of the art of writing, sometimes gathered lightly, but more often gained only