



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1900-11-21

Letter from W[illiam] B[elmont] Parker to John Muir, 1900 Nov 21.

William Belmont Parker

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book is one which would delight a great many people if it were done, and it may be that the acceptance of a third task would hasten the completion of the other two.

As I wrote you when the "Fountains and Streams" paper, which reached us three or four weeks ago, came, we are glad to have it. There remains, as I remember, still to come one paper of those necessary to make up the National Parks book, and I should be very glad if we could be sure of bringing this out in the spring.

I should be obliged if you would give a thought to the Autobiography idea. It is possible that that form of writing might give you just the release of style and have the untrammelled personal flavor which make books of that sort memorable. Please let me know how the notion strikes you.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. Parker.

Mr. John Muir.

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF
The Atlantic Monthly,
BOSTON.

November 21, 1900.

Dear Mr. Muir,

John Burroughs has just been here chatting freely of many things and recalling with great delight the trip he took with you last year to Alaska. He says that while you were together he talked with you more than once of the possibility of your "putting yourself in a book"--writing your autobiography; and he pleased me very much by saying that you had a considerable body of material ready for such a task.

Knowing with how much toil your writing is done, this seems to me as I write it, in spite of Mr. Burroughs's optimism, rather an extravagant suggestion--that you should undertake another book in addition to the two which you have already in hand; but, for all that, the

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