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1901-09-06

Letter from [John Muir] to [Charles Sprague] Sargent, 1901 Sep 6.

John Muir

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[First draft of letter, in note-book #59]

(7)

Martinez, Sept. 6 [1901].

Dear Mr. Sargent:

Soon after the death of our friend Catherine Merrill, Mrs. Moores requested me to contribute to a memorial volume. This I did, sketching the story of our acquaintance and correspondence - her sympathy and kindness when I was blind, her influence as a teacher and as a woman, her rare personality, etc., etc., etc. This I sent - just what you want for your sketch - the story of our acquaintance. Her kindness when I was blind, her influence, my appreciation of her as a friend, teacher, philanthropist, and pure, lovely, noble woman. Memorials, however hearty and sincere, are often sadly in need of an able editor. This Catherine Merrill biographical material, so rich in history, in sunny, all embracing sympathy, written as it should be written would be literature, a cheering, charming, helpful book for everybody, instead of one of those colorless monotones of lamentation and strained praise so common nowadays, floating in clouds of passing feeling, out of sight and touch of all save her personal world.

As far as I know you are the only man able to write this book.

[John Muir]

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