



1902-01-10

## Letter from John Muir to [Walter H.] Page, 1902 Jan 10.

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

---

### Recommended Citation

Muir, John, "Letter from John Muir to [Walter H.] Page, 1902 Jan 10." (1902). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 4569.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/4569>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Correspondence 1856-1914 at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [mgibney@pacific.edu](mailto:mgibney@pacific.edu).

50 / 516  
Martinez, Cal., Jan. 10, 1902  
Big Thanks my dear Page for your  
great letter. The strength & shove  
& hearty ringing inspiration of it  
is enough to make the very trees &  
rocks write.

The Park book, the publishers tell  
me is successful. To you & Sargent  
it owes its existence; for before  
I got your urgent & encouraging  
letters I never dreamed of writing such  
a book. As to plans for others  
I am now at work on a  
small one "Yosemite & other Yosemite"  
which Johnson has been trying to  
get me to write a long time & which  
I hope to get off my hands this year.  
I'll first offer it to the Century Co.  
hoping they will bring it out in  
good shape, give it a good push  
toward readers & offer fair com-  
-pensation. Johnson is all right, a  
very friend of mine, but his

Company<sup>2</sup> did not do half as well  
by me & "The Mountains" as I think  
he should. & I'm not bound to  
give them this or any other book  
I may write on their own terms.

② The California Tree & shrub book  
was suggested by Merriam last summer,  
but I have already written so fully  
on forest trees & their underbrush  
I'm not sure that I can make  
another useful book about them.  
Possibly a handy volume with short  
telling descriptions & illustrations of  
such species enabling the ordinary  
observer to know them at sight  
might be welcomed. This undertaking  
will probably be done season  
after next, & you shall have the  
first sight of it.

③ Next should come a Mountaineering  
book - all about walking, climbing &  
camping, with a lot of illustrative  
excursions.

④ Alaska - glaciers, forests, mtns trails etc.

3

⑤ A book of studies - The action of landscape-making forces - earth sculpture - distribution of plants & animals etc - My main real book in which I'll have to ask my readers to celebrate. Still I hope it may be made readable to a good many.

⑥ Possibly my autobiography which for ten years or more all sorts of people have been begging me to write. My life however has been so smooth & regular & reasonable, so free from blundering exciting adventures the story seems hardly worth while in the midst of so much that is infinitely more important. Still if I should live long enough I may be tempted to try it for I begin to see that such a book would offer fair opportunities here & there to say a good word for God.

The Harriman Alaska book is superb & I gladly congratulate you on the job. In none of the reviews I have seen does Dr Merriam

get half the credit <sup>4</sup> due him as editor.

Hearty Thanks for the two Mowbray  
volumes I've read them every  
word, the more of such nature  
books the better. Good luck  
to you, may your shop grow  
like a Sycovia & may I  
meet you with all your  
family on this side the  
continent armed its best  
beauty. Ever faithfully yours

John Muir