



1902-01-11

## Letter from John Muir to Emily P[elton] Wilson, 1902 Jan 11.

John Muir

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Martinez, Jan. 11, 1902

Mrs Emily P. Wilson

Dear friend of Auld Lang Syne  
I'm delighted to find you &  
see your handwriting after  
this long silence. It is  
wonderful how people  
drift apart on varying  
currents of duty & work without  
intention. I've never forgotten  
you - never forget any of  
my old friends, but I'm  
usually in the wilderness all  
summer & in my study all  
winter so I seldom make  
visits. Oakland seems further  
away than Alaska, - have not  
made a single visit in your  
town during the last fifteen years.

I have not in this time seen  
 the Bentons, McChesneys or  
 Gaskels whom I used to  
 see often times before I  
 was married & got into  
 the habit of writing for  
 the press. I'm going to try  
 however no matter how  
 overladen with work, for  
 I feel conscience stricken  
 to some extent, manage all  
 my excuses though not  
 more guilty than yourself  
 & doctor for you have  
 not visited us.  
 My daughter Wanda is attending  
 the University, & I must ask  
 her to call on you some  
 Saturday. I'm sure you'll  
 like her & she is well  
 worth seeing

My, how far back those  
 Prame du Chun days are  
 the Peltons, Lowell &  
 Bissels. & the Chores in  
 the big buck house & that  
 old horse & car & Mr Grogan.  
 No wonder time is touching  
 us here & there. Nevertheless  
 it always seems a joke  
 to be called old. As far  
 as I know I feel just about  
 as young now as forty yrs  
 ago. I'll send my first  
 book with this & a copy  
 of my last as soon as I  
 get a new lot.

Remember me to the Doctor, &  
 with best wishes believe me  
 ever your friend John Miner

10

Martinez.

Jan. 11, 1902.

Mrs. Emily P. Wilson.

Dear friend of *Auld lang syne*; I'm delighted to find you and see your handwriting after this long silence. It is wonderful how people drift apart on varying currents of duty and work without intention. I've never forgotten you - never forgotten ~~any~~ of my old friends, but I'm usually in the <sup>W</sup>ilderness all summer and in my study all winter, so I seldom make visits. Oakland seems farther away than Alaska, - have not made a single visit in your town during the last fifteen years. Have not in this time seen the Bentons, McChesneys or ~~Gaskins~~ <sup>ills</sup>, whom I used to see often-times before I was married, and got into the habit of writing for the press. I'm going to try however no matter how overladen with work, for I feel conscience stricken to some extent, *Maugre* all my excuses though not more guilty than yourself and Doctor for you have not visited us.

My Daughter, Wanda, is attending the University, and I must ask her to call on you some Saturday. I'm sure you'll like her and she is well worth seeing.

My! How far back those Prairie du Chien days are. The Peltons, Lovewells and Bissels and the *Chores* in the big brick house, and the <sup>old</sup> horse, and cow, and Mr. Grogan. No wonder time is touching us here and there. Nevertheless it always seems a joke to be called old. As far as I know I feel just about as young now as forty yrs ago. I'll send my first book with this and a copy of my last as soon as I get a new lot.

Remember me to the Doctor, and the best wishes believe me *ever*

Your friend

JOHN MUIR.

*Joseph T. Lovell  
Margaret + Emily Bissell. The first two married  
and were the parents of Reuben (Covell) Dickinson*

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Mrs. Wilson (nee Emily O. Pelton) was married Sept 15, 1885 to Dr. M. W. Wilson MD of Placer Co. Cal. who died 1904 in Oakland, Cal. John Muir visited her first at Brownsville Cal. when he was exploring the Yuba River. (See account of his climbing trees in one of his early books. This occurred then.) His second visit to her was while she was living at Bolegass, Marin Co. This was probably to 1886. He lectured later in Chico when he lectured and was guest of Gen'l Bidwell. Mrs. Wilson settled in Oakland in 1893 where she saw him at the home of the Gaskills.

The long interval in letters is accounted for by J. Muir's absence from the country (China trip) and most preserving (possibly) whatever letters there were.

*He sent me the two books referred to and later instructed Mrs. Norman of Pasadena to give me a copy of his "Boyhood Days" E. O. W.*