



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1902-01-01

**Letter from F. B[ailey] Millard to John Muir, [ca. 1902 Jan ?].**

F. Bailey Millard

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The Examiner  
San Francisco

Friday.

Dear Mr. Muir:

I suppose you received the message sent via the Martinez correspondent of the "Examiner". To send such a message in such an abrupt business way is as embarrassing as it is to receive it; but I didn't like to use the same old picture of you that has been used so often and which I first printed when I was city editor of the Call, years ago.

The Markham review came and

it more than meets my demands upon the  
 part for "eloquence". I asked him to be  
 as eloquent as he could and he  
 has used large words of language,  
 dipping his pen into all the colors  
 of the Yellowstone, as vividly described  
 by you in the book. It is a fine  
 tribute of me forceful, natural want  
 another. So prepare your deepest  
 and most spontaneous blushes for a  
 week from Sunday.

Keith's "Headwaters of the Merced"  
 has just been exposed to public  
 view here in the Emporium, in rather

The Examiner  
San Francisco

a bad light - too garish for the rather  
suber subject, as treated by him.

But the pure poetry of his mountain  
peaks is something to save over. Still  
you would know best how much ~~save~~  
a person should ~~be~~ lose while viewing  
it. Until you have seen the picture,  
however, and I have heard from you on  
the subject, I shall continue to save.  
I sent Keith a little cry of delight  
over the painting to-day, and don't  
yet feel ashamed of my rhapsody.

I hope you liked the Markham  
book. You didn't say that you received  
it. My best friend, Charles Fergu-  
son, author of "The Religion of Democracy,"  
who preaches the doctrine of out-of-  
doors, wrote me the other day of the  
Markham book, saying: "It will do  
much to abate the world-misance of  
intellectual cleverness and moral mean-  
ness." So good this seemed to me that  
I quote it for you. In truth it seems  
to the subscriber that intellectual cleav-  
ness, as we see it now in print and speech  
to-day is a very misance, needing sorely  
to be abated.

Do you know what I like  
best in "National Parks?" Yellowstone description,  
that first touch on the sugar pine, the mountain  
pines and the meeting with Emerson.

Yours as ever, F. B. Millard.