



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1902-02-02

Letter from Sallie Kennedy Alexander to John Muir, 1902 Feb 2.

Sallie Kennedy Alexander

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place His wonderful creations so vividly
and exquisitely before mortals less fortunate,
but who possess an embryo love for
nature, which you always succeed in bringing
into stronger life, and make one long for
the opportunity of its yet greater expansion.

I should be much pained if I thought
you would construe my silence into want
of appreciation of your services, and Mr.
Alexander fears you will, and I beg to
say I will not - for it is not the case.

We both hope the passing year will con-
tinue to you and yours, health and
great-happiness. As in days far away.

I have written you
for some time
but have not
time to do so
now.

1711 Q Street. Washington Feb 3rd
1902.

My dear Mr. Muir,
Just a month ago, my sincere
thanks should have been sent you, for the
lovely memento - your book - "Complimentary Poems"
which you so kindly sent at Christmas.

A number of times my husband has
queried, "I'll bet you thanked Mr. Muir
for his book," to I have not, and I can-
not until I have had at least a taste of
the delight - I know its contents will afford
and this was my unconquerable feeling.

Last week for the first time we were able
to quietly drink deep of the fountains of
beauty and instruction with which it

book around. For many of the descriptions one reading would not suffice, and please read that again, for we always read aloud. One or other of us would say, and so we have read a good portion, deeply impressed, and most grateful at the power of language, and your wonderful use of it - to describe the beauties, marvels, and horrors almost, of nature from a Snowflake, to the mighty upheavals which have torn mountains in twain.

Many pictures I have dug for to my soul loath to feel they could ever be ~~seen~~

from me. But the time when we can enjoy such soul refreshing hours is very limited in this busy season of the year. The first of January always develops the strength of the Social Season to follow, and my mind and time have ^{almost} been constantly occupied with guests, and this generally continues through January and February.

It is our custom to read aloud each evening, when we can command the time, so we joyfully anticipate the evenings we can call our own ere long and the first suggestion I know will be, "Let us read the Union book again," and we will again thank God, for the appreciation and the intellect he has given you to