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Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1902 Sep 15.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
THE CENTURY MAGAZINE
UNION SQUARE NEW YORK

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.
R. U. JOHNSON,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
C. C. BUEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Sept. 15th, 1902.

John Muir, Esq.,
Martinez, Calif.

My dear Muir:

Mrs. Tully tells us, in a letter recounting her delightful visit to you, of a number of animal stories that you related. Of course I have heard some of these; but I write for the publishers, in the most formal and official manner, to tell you that we want you to write for The Century a book of these stories, which might lead off with your story of "Stickeen." We have great confidence that such a book would have a large sale, and, moreover, that you could do it--so to speak--with your left hand. *You remember we have wanted your Camp fire talk for a long time.*

I hope this winter will be one of much literary activity to you and that by the spring we can have the "Yosemite" book, and this book of short stories. I am awaiting a reply to my inquiry about the newly discovered gorge that is finer than the Yosemite, and concerning the big trees. Mr. Gilder would be very glad indeed to have a short description of this "biggest tree," say fifteen hundred words, together with a photograph of the tree, with figures near by which will indicate the size of it. If this has not been done, I suppose a photographer would have to be specially sent there.

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(J. M. - 2)

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The other two trees, General Grant and General Sherman, have no doubt already been photographed. You see we have cut out enough work to keep you busy for some time to come. We give you no excuse for wandering after strange gods.

I suppose you have read the August and September papers by Mrs. Tully. We shall have another paper in the October number. I hope her book will be a success. I think it deserves to be, on account of its genuineness, its ^{picturesqueness} ~~disinterestedness~~ and its unaffected human sentiment. When it comes out, I should be glad if it should strike you as justifying you in saying a good word for it.

We have not yet been able to set a date for our sailing for Italy, but it is likely to be some time in October.

Very sincerely yours,

