



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1902-09-17

Letter from Geo[rge] Hansen to John Muir, 1902 Sep 17.

George Hansen

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Spt. 17th., 1902.

Mr. John Muir .

Martinez .

My dear Sir,

Few words , but those good - that is what I like . To me
this little " Vespers " is a volume pressed down with glacier force till
twelve pictures are all that could pass the pressure. You characterize
it in its quality, and your lines will go with my keepsakes ^{into} for the chest
of Roland.

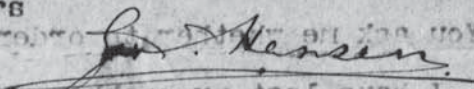
You ask me whether to order the others direct from me or the publi-
shers. I have lost my backbone, and stand there with hat in hand, almost
on my knees. Order from me, and I make twenty cents a copy , ~~just~~ ^{at} ~~he f~~
a profit on the two ~~k~~ ^{at} (now out) that enables my rare wife to keep ~~her~~ ^{her} house
for one whole California day . The other three booklets- as good as these-
will not be out for about two months yet. - I have been slain wickedly
- for the time being only - let us hope . ~~Oh~~ ^{Oh} still about and crouch on
crutches and have been unable to earn a copper for more than five months.
It is a part paralysis, and nothing but the head and the heart are left.
If the ^acleriness of the one and the ~~w~~ ^warmness of the other are sufficient
excuse for a man to further count amongst the living, I am a fullfledged
man . The dedication in the " Vespers " will ~~convey~~ ^{convey} to you all it does
contain .

I mean what I said in the dedication of " Vespers " to you , namely
that the whole of the work as well as the boy is nothing more wonderfull

then we could behold daily if only eyes were open . God has brightened
my existence when he showed me how to picture . He let me see how the
ideas of the unspeaking child are expressed, and how the portraying fixes
the mood. I have a unique library, and only wish that you could move your
chair closer and I let you share my rich gallery.

And as I close (after having eased my heart in as many words as
I could) , let me ask a selfish way if I may , Do you know of any eastern
magazine that would publish some of my " stories " (I have about 75 ex-
cellent ones) in monthly issues and afterwards bring them out in a volume
If you can think, favor me with a word , one word of yours to every fifty
of my epistle. I have been told about Frederick Stokes, in New York , Do
you know anything about him ?

Sincerely yours



Look up once for me up to Mount Diablo when he again looms up in bright-
ness before you , and think of a man who has to dream to wander henceforth
Oh how I thank my fate that has shown so many wonders of this earth
ere this blight has come over me.

for the time being only - let us hope . On still about and crouch on
crutches and have been unable to earn a cent for over five months.
It is a part of the world, and nothing but the head and the heart are left.
If the cleanness of the one and the " swarms of the other " are sufficient
excuse for a man to further count amongst the living. I am a fulfilled
man . The dedication in the " Veterans " will recognize you all it does
I mean that I said in the dedication of " Veterans " to you , namely
that the title of the work as well as the boy is nothing more wonderful