



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1902-10-12

**Letter from John Muir to [Anna R.] Dickey, 1902 Oct 12.**

John Muir

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[Original letter returned to Mrs. Anna R. Dickey]

Martinez, Oct. 12, 1902,

Dear Mrs. Dickey:

I was glad to get your letter. It so vividly recalled our memorable ramble, merry and nobly elevating, and solemn in the solemn aboriginal woods and gardens of the great mountains, common-place, sublime and divine. I seemed to hear your voice in your letter, and see you gliding, drifting, scrambling along the trails with all the gay good company, or seated around our many campfires in the grand illuminated groves, etc., etc., etc. — altogether a good trip in which everybody was a happy scholar at the feet of Nature, and all learned something direct from earth and sky, bird and beast, trees, flowers, and chanting winds and waters; hints, suggestions, little-great lessons of God's infinite power and glory and goodness. No wonder your youth is renewed and Donald goes to his studies right heartily.

To talk plants to those who love them must ever be easy and delightful. By the way, that little fairy, airy, white flowered plant which covers sandy dry ground on the mountains like a mist, which I told you was a near relative of *Eriogonum*, but whose name I could never recall, is *Oxytheca spergulina*. There is another rather common species in the region we traveled, but this is the finest and most abundant.

I'm glad you found the Mountain Hemlock, the loveliest of conifers. You will find it described in both my books. It is abundant in Kings <sup>new</sup> Canyons, but not beside the trails. The "heather" you mention is no doubt *bryanthus* or *Cassiope*. Next year you and Donald should make collections of at least the most interesting plants. A plant press, tell Donald, is lighter and better than a gun. So is a camera, and good photographs of trees and shrubs are much to be desired.

I have heard from all the girls. Their enthusiasm is still fresh and they are already planning and plotting for next year's outing in the Yosemite, Tuolumne, and Mono regions.. [You must have enjoyed your visits at the Bunnells and Keelers. The Judge is the proudest mountaineer in California, if not in America, and is trying very hard to augment the glory and elevation of Whitney. Keith is well again and is very busy with his new paintings. The view of Kern Canyon from the lower end of the lake is a fine telling picture.] Gannett stayed two days with us, and is now, I suppose, at home. I was hoping you might have a day or two for a visit to our little valley. Next time you come to the city try to stop off at "Muir Station" on the Santa Fe. We are only an hour and a half from the city. I should greatly enjoy a visit at your Ojai home, as you well know, but when fate and work will let me I dinna ken.. [You should see Marian's photographs. They are fine and tell our Kern Kaweah story nobly.] Give my sincere regard to Donald.

Ever faithfully yours,

JOHN MUIR

<sup>omit</sup> You will find Stickeen in the Century for September, 1897. We expect Merriam soon. The main camp of Sierra Club next year will likely be at Lake Eleanor in the north Tuolumne region.

[Envelope addressed Mrs. Ernest M. Dickey, Nordhoff, Cal.  
This is the Mrs. Anna R. Dickey of later correspondence]

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