



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1902-11-21

**Letter from John S. Gray to John Muir, 1902 Nov 21.**

John S. Gray

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JOHN S. GRAY,  
PRESIDENT.  
LOUIS BLITZ,  
VICE PRESIDENT.

GHAS. E. KANTER,  
VICE PRESIDENT.  
GEO. H. KIRCHNER,  
CASHIER.

The German American Bank,  
Detroit, + Mich.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1902

My Dear Mr. Muir

I recently read your article on the Grand Cañon of the Colorado and am prompted thereby to write you, expressive of my appreciation of your description of that wonderful scene. I am free to confess that I never read a descriptive article before, that compares with it, not even in Hatter Scott's writings which I have always considered unequalled in that line. But yours excels everything - so that I hardly knew which to admire most - the grandeur of the subject or the masterly way in which it is pictured to the reader.

It is certainly a prose poem of the highest order and I hope you will be long spared to enrich the public with such productions - & that at least you will be able to finish the books you had under consideration when we were with you last spring.

This description of the Grand Cañon has an added interest to us, inasmuch as you were working on it when we were there, and we interrupted you a good deal in your work.

I wonder how you all are in the Alhambra Valley - Mrs. Muir was in poor health. I trust the summer has been the means of improving it - and that Helen and Nanda were off on a tour with you as they were a year ago, and that they, and you, had close contact with nature in her grandest scenes. I noticed your discovery of a hitherto unknown group of *Sequoia Gigantica* which overtops all previous known specimens.

What a wonderful country that is.

David S. Sappore has been fighting the part of his

vines, and extending the area of persistent vines  
as you all must do to overcome that serious  
trouble - I trust he and his are well and  
that Mrs. Reid is stronger than when we  
saw her last as she came out to wave  
us farewell from their porch, as we past  
over the viaduct - Mrs. Galloway too I trust  
is well - Please remember us to all the friends  
with our kindest regards -

Mrs. Galloway will be interested to know  
that Mrs. Sanderson - Isabella - has sold off  
her household effects, closed her house, and  
yesterday left us to go to spend the winter with  
her daughter Grace who is settled in East  
Orange near New York - I felt very unwilling  
to have her go, but know that it is better for  
her - My own family is much as usual  
in health and prosperity - I lately turned over  
my factory to a large Company and resigned  
its entire management to my sons  
Paul & David - so that I am now out  
of active business, and only retain an office  
in the bank to attend to my personal affairs  
and to give an hour or two a day to the bank -

Otherwise I might be "looking for a job" -

We have spent about half of our time since  
our return from the West on our Country  
place, but now that cold weather is coming  
will be shut out of that, & may have to think  
of migrating to a warmer climate -

With kind regards and best wishes for you  
and yours believe me

Ever yours sincerely

John S. Gray

<sup>H.S.</sup> David Gray of Buffalo my nephew, as you will see writes occasional light  
stories for the Century and has gone to Manila & Japan partly for  
his health and partly for material for future work - the wrong places  
to look for his kind of subjects & should think - horses being at a discount there