



1872-04-03

## 1872 Apr 3 JM to Runkle p1

John Muir

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### Recommended Citation

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Yosemite Valley April 3<sup>d</sup> 1872

Dear Nunkle, I hope to hear from you soon. I know that you are exceedingly busy therefore I have not written you oftener during the winter. I am afraid, the few letters I sent may have exacted too much of your time. Anything I read with a view of publication wh you do not like, toss into my waste basket. How many letters have you received in all? I think I have sent ten since I writing the first Glacier Rambles, The last is an account of our Earthquake storm wh commenced March 26<sup>th</sup> & is still in progress, About a month ago I sent a short account of a journey to the Ketchikan. A short article "Yosemite in flood" is in the April No of the Overland, Our Glacier Study has been expanding all winter. It threatens to cover all the continents & much of the sea. The great earthquake has solved a minor question of debris slopes wh hitherto baffled all my efforts. It was not the mere existence of such slopes as that back of Hutchings hotel, but their asynchronism, that puzzled me. In my investigations of these slopes about Yosemite, I had decided that not only had the principal mass of each slope fallen at one time, but that the different slopes had been made at one time. & while the ground was heaving & thumping, & shuddering in its first stupendous passion, & before a single boulder reached the bottom of the valley the application of this new force flashed upon me, & I shouted, "I have it". Judge then of my joy when the incomparable song of the booming & roaring notes of the falling Eagle Rock began

I have not heard from you but once since your return to Boston. I have had only one Tribune (Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1870)

Did ever Nature give more glorious vocal confirmation to words of  
Mortal - did she ever boom out a more Audible amen.

I hope to see the instruments you promised in time for  
Spring use, I will work hard, I sometimes think that I have spent  
too much time on letters etc, Emerson, sent me his essays a short  
time ago & a letter most kindly written. He assures me by saying in a ~~perceptive~~  
mood that I shall certainly settle on the Atlantic Coast, soon or late, His  
merely saying this made feel as if half drawn out of the Yosemite pouch,  
Since the quake storm I have thought of my mountain mother as wearing  
Common bones & flesh, - a marsupial with many a Yosemite pouch.  
Who wouldn't believe Darwin when Yosemite shakes herself like a  
water spaniel & when her huge domes dance & drift-loose & free as  
foam bells at the foot <sup>of</sup> a waterfall.

I will make "Black's" my headquarters this summer, But I am  
building a cabin in a thicket of Cornus bushes up by Larson's. It will  
be a calm nest for you & your wife to spend a whole round summer  
in, Hoping that you will not allow my small papers to trouble  
you I am ever most cordially  
Yrs John Muir