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1880 Aug 10 JM to Louie p1

John Muir

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Sitka,
On board the California
Aug' 10th 1880.

10-30 P. M. of your time.

My own dear Louis

I'm now about as
far from you as I will be this
year - only this we sail to the north
& then to the Mylassie. And I'm not
away at all of your know, for only
they who do not love may ever be
apart. There is no true separation for
those whose hearts & souls are together.
So much for love & philosophy, I
now must trace you my way
since leaving Nanaimo. We sailed
smoothly through the thousand evergreen
isles, & arrived at Fort Wrangell at
4.30 A. M. on the 5th - Left Wrangell
at 12 M. of the same day & arrived
here on the 9th at 6, A. M. Spent the
day in friend greetings & saunterings

Found Mr Vanderbilt & his wife &
John & not every way least though
last, Little Annie who is grown in stature
& grace & beauty since last I kissed her.
Today Mr Vanderbilt kindly took myself
& Mr Magee & three other fellow
passengers on an excursion on his
Steamer up Peril Strait, about fifty
miles. (You can find it on one of the
charts that I forgot to bring) We returned
to the California about 9.30, completing
my ways thus far.

And now for my future plans -
The California sails tomorrow
afternoon some time for Fort Wrangel
& I mean to return on her & from
there set out on my canoe trip. I do
not expect to be detained at Wrangel inasmuch
as I saw Mr Young who promised to have
a canoe & crew ready. I mean to keep
close along the mainland, exploring the
deep inlets in turn, at least as far north
as the Tarkon, then push across to Cross

Sound & follow the Northern shore, ex-
-amining the glaciers that crowd into the
deep inlet that puts back northward
from near the south extremity of the
Sound, where I was last year. Thence
I mean to return ~~westward~~ eastward along
the Southern shore of the Sound to
Chatham Strait, turn southward down
the west shore of the Strait to Peril
Strait, & follow this Strait to Sitka,
where I shall take the California.
Possibly however I may, should I not
be pushed for time, return to Wrangle
or Magee will I think go with me,
though very unwilling to do so. He is
held only by the definite contract he made
with me. Had he requested me to release
him from it in the right manly way
I should have done so at once. But
for his own sake I mean to make him
go as I feel sure that he will be better
satisfied, & that his health will ^{be} greatly
benefited. No other trip that I know of

will suit him so well.

I let Mr Vanderbilt have \$3000
as we proposed.

Aug 11th 12, M. I have just returned
from a visit to the farmstead. The
Commander Beardslee paid me a visit
here last evening, & invited me aboard
his ship, had a pleasant chat, & an
invitation to make the farmstead my
home while here.

I also found my friend Koskote, the
Chief of the Hovvras, the man who I
told you had entertained Mr Jerny & I
so well last year on Cross Sound, &
who made so good a speech.
He is here trading, & seemed greatly
pleased to learn that I was going to pay
him another visit. Said that meeting
me was like meeting his own brother
who was dead, His heart felt good etc.

In Case Mr Magee goes on with
me, as I suppose he will, I shall have
to be in Sitka or Fort Wrangel by this
time or earlier next month. as he

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certainly return on the September trip of the Californian, & should I have good luck as to wind & weather I may possibly return with him, though this is not probable: I will not be later however than the October trip.

I have been learning all about the death of the beam & good old Fualte. I think that Dr Corbiss one of the Wangel Missionaries made a mistake in reference to the seizure of some whisky, which caused the beginning of the trouble.

This is a bright, soft, balmy day. How you would enjoy it. You must come here some day when you are strong enough. Heaven bless you my wife, I will write again from Fort Wangel tomorrow. Love to Mother & Father. Remember me to Mrs Hatch; hope she is recovering health in the invigorating air of the Sierras. For a little while again.

Fourell John Min.

Everybody enquires at first on
seeing me how you brought
your wife. And then have
you a photograph, & then
pass condemnation for
coming alone.

My hair frizzles evenly all
over like the hair of certain
dogs some think you played
on it. It will rub down.

The mail is about to close
& I must write to mother.

Affectionately your husband
John Jones.

Read eagerly I shall look for
news when I reach Fort Wangel
next month.