



1881-07-09

1881 July 9 JM to My dear wife p1

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

Recommended Citation

Muir, John, "1881 July 9 JM to My dear wife p1" (1881). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 4837.
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/4837>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Correspondence 1856-1914 at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

St Michael's, July 9th 1881.

My Dear wife, We did not get away last evening as we expected, on account of the change in plans as to taking all our winter stores on board. instead of leaving them until another visit in September. It is barely possible we might get caught off Point Barrow or on Wrangel by movements in the ice-pack that never can be anticipated therefore we will be more comfortable with abundance of bread about us. In the matter of coal there is a mine on the north coast where some can be obtained in case of need, & also plenty of driftwood.

Our cruise, notwithstanding we have already made two trips into a portion of the arctic usually blocked most of the summer, we consider is just really beginning. For we have not yet made any attempt to get to the packed region about Herald Island & Wrangel Land. Perhaps not once in twenty years would it be possible to get a ship alongside the shores of Wrangel Land, although its southern point is about nine degrees south of points attained on the eastern side of the Continent. To find the ocean ice thirty or forty feet thick away from its mysterious shores seems to be about as hopeless as to find a mountain glacier ~~run~~ out of its canon. Still this has been so remarkably open & mild a winter, & so many north gales have been blowing this spring calculated to break up the huge packs, & grind the cakes & blocks against one another that we have sanguine hopes of accomplishing all that we are expected to do & get home by the end of October. If I can see as much of the American Coast as I have of the Asiatic I will be satisfied. & should the weather be as favorable & certainly shall. I will send this by the schooner *Cyan* belonging to the Western Fur & Trading Co, which sails

for San Francisco in an hour or two (It is now 9.45 a.m.) & will probably arrive there about the middle of August. The Steamer St Paul belonging to the Alaska Com. Co. will sail for San Francisco ~~touching~~ in a week or two, touching at the Seal Islands & Oonalaska & will probably arrive in San Francisco about the 20th of August. I send two letters to you by her, & also six Bulletin letters which will give you a pretty complete account of our cruise thus far, I also sent five Bulletin letters by the Tom Pope with a number for you & mother which you may have received by this time. We may probably be home ere you receive any more. If not think of me dear as happily at work with no other pain than the pain of separation from you & my wellness. I have many times been weighing chances as to whether you have sent letters by the Mary & Helen now called the "Rodgers" which was to sail about the middle of June. She is a slow sailer & has to go far out of her course by Petroplovsk the Capital of Kamtchatka for dogs. & will not be through the strait before the end of the season nearly. Yet a letter ~~from~~ ^{by} her is my only hope of hearing from you this season.

How warm & bland the weather is here, 60° in the shade, & how fine a crop of grass & flowers is growing up along the shores & back on the spongy tundra. The Captain says I can have a few hours on shore this afternoon. I mean to go across the bay three miles to a part of the tundra I have not yet seen. I shall at least find a lot of new flowers & see some of the birds. One more Goodbye. I send Anna's parka by the St Paul. Give my love to Sam Williams. You must not forget him.