



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1897-10-15

1897 Oct 15 Walter Page to JM p1

Walter H. Page

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October 15, 1897.

Dear Mr. Muir,

I thank you very heartily for your telegram that has just been received, and I wait with eagerness for your letter. At the risk of making myself a nuisance I was on the point of writing to you an additional experience that I have had which I cannot help thinking will interest you.

Mr. John Burroughs has been spending a little while with me, and he talks about nothing else so earnestly as about you and your work. He declares in the most emphatic fashion that it will be a misfortune too great to estimate if you do not write up all those bags of notes which you have gathered. He encourages me, to put it in his own words, to "keep firing at him, keep firing at him".

Now when I have on my side two such allies as Professor Sargent and Mr. Burroughs, you will have to make your fortifications very

strong to resist. The Atlantic wants all the matter that you will write, and then as soon as it is done in the Atlantic, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Company wish to bring it out in beautiful and attractive book form. For both uses you must name your own terms (within the possibilities of the good business conduct of the magazine and of the publishing house). I confess I shall not die satisfied if your bags of notes are not turned into literature, and if that literature is not put in the beautiful shape which its permanent quality requires and is not put along with that compact and large body of American literature that is put out by this firm.

I beg you to believe me that in all this I am not selfish, for I am trying my best to serve the most appreciative public that we have, and, if you will let me say so, it is a matter of no little pride that in doing ^{this} ~~so~~ we should also serve your best interests.

If I bore you by so many letters, you have only yourself to blame and your kindness in permitting the assault.

Very heartily yours,

Walter H. Page

Mr. John Muir.

(over)

2008.16

P.S.

I am hoping to receive
the article on Baker within
a week or so in time
for the Dec. Anthology

W.H.P.