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Letter from John DeLaittre to John Muir, 1910 Jan 10.

John DeLaittre

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Jan. 10, 1910.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Mr. Muir:-

Pardon me for addressing you. I have read and am now re-reading your book, "National Reserves". I cannot express to you the delight I take in reading it and indeed I wish I knew as much as you do. Where did you learn all of the names of the California flowers? "May your tribe increase"; but I am sure there will never be another John Muir like you. You have no conception of the delight I have taken in your book. When you have read a little further you will know the reason why. At the age of twenty or thereabouts I landed in San Francisco Nov. 1852 and went immediately to Murphy's Camp in Calaveras County. You know every inch of the ground there well. I lived there thirteen and one-half years. Knew well for many years Dow, the hunter and first discoverer of the big trees, and two weeks after his discovery, together with him, made one of a party of eight who, after hunting two days, found them and slept one night beneath the "Father of the Forest" I knew well Capt. Hanford, who, with some friends who furnished capital, cut down the big tree, shipped 60 feet of the bark and exhibited it on Broadway, N. Y. James L. Sperry, proprietor of the Sperry Hotel, both at Murphy's and at Big Tree Grove, was my intimate friend and doubtless you knew him well. I am not sure but I have an indistinct recollection that John Muir visited the Grove while I was in Murphy's; but be all this as it may, you can readily see how I am charmed with your book.

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Mr. John Muir. #2.

At the close of the Civil war I left Murphy's and have since lived in this city. This spring if it is possible, I am bound to go into the Yosemite Valley and also revisit my old home in Murphy's. Should I pass through Martinez, I have an idea I would like to stop off for an hour and exchange greetings with you.

Indeed you are doing in your books a wonderful work. Your descriptions of Mt. Shasta, Yellow Stone Park and many places in the State of Washington which I have visited are simply grand.

Considering that I am a stranger to you, I will make this communication brief.

Wishing you a happy new year, long life and many more trips with "Brownie" through the Grand Sierras and with sincere regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Jno. D. Latta

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