



1910-06-07

Letter from Ellery Sedgwick to John Muir, 1910 Jun 7.

Ellery Sedgwick

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Editorial Office of
The Atlantic Monthly,
4 Park St., Boston,
June 7, 1910.

Dear Mr. Muir:

Through the kindness of Messrs. Houghton Mifflin Company, I had an opportunity to take home for a day the manuscript of your first "Summer in the Sierras", and fresh from the delight of reading it, I am writing to ask whether the Atlantic may not count upon the privilege of publishing several chapters of it in successive issues. With your permission we should, I think, plan to take from the manuscript material for at least four papers, which should give to many thousands of our readers an opportunity to get to know your work under the happiest circumstances.

For myself, I can say that I felt almost as if I had "found religion" in gazing at this first vision of the valleys of Sierra through your eyes.

I have not yet given the manuscript a careful second reading, but I feel sure that all the requirements of variety and incident which a magazine demands, can be met by four extracts of six or seven thousand words apiece. It is my hope to publish these in November, December, January, and February, thus allowing the volume to be given to the public early in the spring.

In this connection the Atlantic would expect to do a great deal of circularizing and other advertising, so that the articles should be called to the attention of a very great number of readers not now on the subscription list of the Atlantic. I may add that your publishers share with me the confident belief that such judicious exploitation must increase considerably the sales of the book and of course so far as the Atlantic is concerned, the publication of such papers as these would bring delight to our readers and great satisfaction to ourselves.

Will you be good enough to let me hear from you as promptly as may be?

Faithfully yours,

Ellery Sedgwick,

John Muir, Esq.,
Martinez, California.

Editor.

[Letter enclosed in letter to Mrs. J.D. Hooker, June 15, 1910]

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