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Letter from John Muir to [Katharine] Hooker, 1910 Dec 17.

John Muir

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Martinez, Dec. 17, 1910

Dear Mrs Hooker, I'm glad you're at work on a book: for as far as I know however high or low Fortune's winds may blow o'er life's solemn main there is nothing so saving as good hearty work. From a letter just received from The Lark I learn the good news that Mr Hooker is also hard at work with his pen.

As for myself I've been reading old musty dusty Yosemite notes until I'm tired & blinky blind, trying to arrange them in something like lateral medial & terminal moraines on my den floor. I never imagined I had accumulated so vast a number. The long trains & embankments & heaped up piles are truly appalling: I thought that in a quiet day or two I might select all that would be required for a guide book; but the stuff seems enough for a score of big jungle books, & it's very hard I find to steer through it on anything like a steady course in reasonable time.

Therefore I'm beginning to see that I'll have to pick out only a moderate sized bagful for the book & abandon the bulk of it to waste away like a snow bank or grow into other forms as time & chance may determine.

So after all I may be able to fly south in a few days & alight in Yont's fine Canyon garret. Any how with good will & good wishes to you all I am ever faithfully affectionately John Muir