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Letter from John Muir to [J. E.] Calkins, 1908 Jan 14.

John Muir

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Recommended Citation

Muir, John, "Letter from John Muir to [J. E.] Calkins, 1908 Jan 14." (1908). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 5239.
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Martinez, Cal. Jan. 14, 1908.

Dear Mr Calkins,

Many thanks for your long kind letter, I am still perfectly pen-barren amnda lot of distracting cares but thank Heaven benumbing anxiety about my darling Helen is is beginning to lift Three weeks ago, or as soon as she was able to travel a day on the Railway I made haste to get her out of the coast fogs, to the Mohave desert. Near Daggett, on a ranch belonging to one of the noted Van Dyke family I built her a little cottage with an open porch where she sleeps, with a warm room to dress in where her nurse & companion sleeps. She is already much better has gained 5 pounds & is as merry as ever. Never the less the doctors say she will have to stay there or in some other dry desert region a year

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or two. Fortunately the lakes desert, - praises the dry electric climate & the vast spacious landscapes clad in glorious light ever changing - to etc

As to gathering strength from calm rest & abundance of good simple food both the pet doctor & nurse are ever urging. This sensible course & so do I. & after so many severe deadly illness she will probably be careful or at least half sane concerning exercise - Jim back here to get some needed supplies & will return in a few days. Possibly if all goes well I may get off guard duty long enough to run down to Los Angeles to see you.

I am only hopeful promising news on the Hulah Betsky, but we must keep up the fight until the secretary reports on the question & application rather- Heaven bless you in your new home This new year & all the years

Ever Your friend John Muir

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