



1908-02-06

## Letter from John Muir to [William] Kent, 1908 Feb 6.

John Muir

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Dear Mr. Kunkin ~~your letter of Jan 17~~ <sup>copy of which you sent me</sup> ~~was a surprise~~ <sup>of the pleasure which I</sup>  
 seeing my name in the tender & deed of the Tamalpais Sagar, ~~this is~~ <sup>the very best monument to, a</sup>  
 tree lover's memory, & the most enduring that could possibly be found in  
 all the forests of O. You have done me a great honor & I am  
 proud of it. Long ago Asa Gray named several plants for me, the best of which  
 is a sturdy rough evergreen dwarf that I discovered on the shore of the Arctic  
 schools near & where I planted ~~my trees~~ <sup>also my playground</sup>  
~~beard my name but protected from man, these~~ <sup>aboriginal woods</sup>  
~~them all even the giant~~ <sup>will outlast</sup>  
~~the forest~~ <sup>gl. today with Sequoia</sup>  
~~measured it was~~ <sup>ground down & cast into the sea</sup>  
~~some~~ <sup>the forest</sup>  
 & 2 of the many species have come safely thro  
 stems that have fallen upon them ~~all the geological~~  
 destroying the ~~crust~~  
 ice sheet of the gl. forest.

Saving these woods from the axe & saw, from money changers &  
 water-changers & giving them to our country & O. is in many ways the  
 most notable deed & more I am even proud of some my wanderer began  
 a glorious lesson & blessing to saint & sinner alike & credit &  
 & that so fine divine a thing should have come out of  
 money mad Chicago who was a shock to it.  
 encouragement to God himself

Immortal ~~long~~ Sequoia life to you  
 much needed ~~May you live forever~~

Ever Yrs J.M.

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Of course I'm with you in your all embracing Mt  
 Tamalpais Park plan  
 & I have been away in the Mohave desert with my sick daughter Helen  
 who is convalescing from  
 pneumonia  
 10059  
 Some delay in reply to your letter of Jan 17

[The following is the first rough draft of a letter to Mr. Kent]

Dear Mr. Kent,

[It] was a surprise of the pleasantest kind seeing my name in the tender and deed of the Tamalpais Sequoias, copy of which you sent with your letter of January 17. This is the very best monument to a tree-lover's memory that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world. You have done me a great enduring honor and needless to say I am proud of it. Long ago Asa Gray named several plants for me, the best of which, the most interesting, is a sturdy frost-enduring daisy that I discovered on the shore of the Arctic Ocean near Icy Cape. Schools here and there have planted Muir trees in their playgrounds; a Sierra peak and also one of the Alaska glaciers bear my name, but these aboriginal woods saved from man will outlast them all, even the mountain and glacier. Compared with Sequoia glaciers are young and fleeting. Mountains great and small, thousands of them, have been ground down, weathered, washed away, and cast into the sea since the first Sequoia forests lifted their domes and spires to the sky, and two of the many species have come safely through all the geological storms that have fallen upon them since the cretaceous period, surviving even the crushing, destroying ice sheets of the glacial period.

Saving these woods from the axe and saw, from money-changers and water-changers, and giving them to our country and the world is in many ways the most notable service to God and man I have ever known of since my forest wanderings began -- a much needed lesson and blessing to saint and sinner alike, and credit and encouragement to God himself. That so fine [and] divine a thing should have come out of money-mad Chicago, wha wad a thocht it.

Immortal Sequoia life to you,

Ever yours,

J. M.

Of course I'm with you in your all-embracing Mt. Tamalpais park plan. I have been away in the Mohave desert with my daughter Helen, who is convalescing from pneumonia. Hence [the] delay in replying to your letter of Jan. 17.