



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1908-03-07

Letter from John Muir to [J. E.] Calkins, 1908 Mar 7.

John Muir

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Martinez, March 7, 1908

Dear Mr Calkins:

I'm sorry that my
sadly mixed affairs should
have had so discouraging
an influence on your own,
& caused you to write so many
long letters. Illness & business
have prevented me from doing
any literary work since last
I saw you, nor if Mrs Calkins
& yourself ^{had} ~~the~~ been here all
winter could I have furnished
you with a single hour's work.

I can't compose when my
children are dangerously sick
or when I am sick or bothered
with business, & even when
all is tranquil none is able
to help me to compose. but
only to take down a first
rough draft from dictation
& to put in type after all the
real work is done. I am getting

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better & hope to get into the mountains
to recuperate. I may never
return to this old home to
stay as I have about completed
a trade that will release
Helen & I of the Vineyard
In any case she will be
away a couple of years.
When I'll be able for literary
work I can't tell, but I
may bring a piece of work to
Los Angeles & try working with
you in your home as you
proposed, while at the same
time you could take advantage
of anything attractive to you
that offered. I usually finish
what I begin, but in the last
four years every literary plan
has been interrupted about
as soon as work on it was
fairly under way & no friend
however kind is able to help
in such troubles. Faithfully yours
John Muir

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