



1908-09-15

## Letter from John Muir to [J. E. Calkins], [1908 sep 15 ?].

John Muir

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Martinez Sep. 15, 1908

My dear Mr Calkins:

I got home a few days ago from a long visit with my friends the Harrimans at Pelican Bay in the Klamath Country & have had a fine reviewing time & have also got some writing done up there on that much talked of auto bi-ography - dictated a 1000 or 1500 pages of M.S., mostly a miserable confused mess however that will have to be rewritten again & again. I also spent a month with the Surra Club in the Kern Canon Country, & made a short excursion to Yosemite. I also rewrote & enlarged Stickeer & sent it to Houghton Mifflin & Co. It will be published as a little book early next spring. Am now pegging away at another Yosemite book & have several others in mind which may see the light some day if I live long enough. Helen is still at Daguerre with the Van Dykes bravely making her way toward sound health. & I fondly hope she will within another year or so be her own hale merry self again. I have often thought of you these eventful



[15 Sep 1908?]

days & months & am very glad to learn that Mrs Calkins is well again & that you are snugly settled in your own home among orange & lemon groves. I would like nothing better than to be with you free from all business & care except book work, & I hope I may be able to make you a long visit at least.

Months & months after I last saw you were spent in settling family affairs. I traded all the old ranch belonging to Helen to her sister Wanda for other property that would not require so much personal attention. The big house & five acres about it is all that Helen now owns here. Still her other property requires a good deal of attention together with my own, & my literary work is often sadly interrupted. I hope to be able to trade or sell off still more of our load & then with health & good luck get something worth while off my hands before dark.

With kindest regards & best wishes for you all I am ever  
Faithfully Yours, John Muir