



1908-01-01

## Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, [ca. 1908].

John Muir

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James to page in & get sight of God  
said Mr. Johnson

There are a few clippings  
a confused mess full of concealed  
motives. You may return them  
when done with them.

The objections to making H. H. a  
reservoir are briefly

That such use would to a  
great damaging extent defeat  
the purpose & nullify the effect  
of the law creating the Park.

For Hitch Hetchy is a counterpart  
of Yosemite, a great & wonderful  
feature of the Park, visited by  
thousands even though as yet  
accessible only by trails.

Summed as proposed it not only  
be made utterly mar-



2  
so that no road or trail could  
be made around the reservoir  
without tunnelling through rocks  
like El Capitan & ~~the~~ Cathedral,  
but it would block & close up  
the door of the Great Involunne  
Canon, the sublime way to the  
upper Involunne Meadow or valley,  
the focus of pleasure travel  
in the High Sierra, & grand  
central camp ground.

③ Because the Park is a  
natural wonderland belonging  
to all the world & should be  
preserved in pure wildness  
forever.

④ Because San Francisco Superior  
& Mr Phelan want it for a C

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water supply, not because it cannot be got elsewhere, but because they expect to get it at less cost. Only Mr Phelan & his hired assistants & Supervisors demand this use of the Park, not the Citizens in general. In all the years since Mr Phelan made his first application I have never heard a word on the subject from anyone else or seen a line in the newspapers or from any other citizen. Though all of course would be in favor of Sierra water. Marsden Manson & Warren Olney are the noisiest pleaders. The specious plea they make







5  
or a hundred fold by camps  
& travelers from all the  
world. And so on with  
every plea & claim &  
statement.

Think what a monstrous  
responsibility is piled on  
Young Garfield & how heavy  
must be the load however able  
& strong he may be, while  
submerged beneath reservoirs  
of lies & lopsided truths inextric-  
ably mixed. Woe is he & thee  
& me & all the world's beauty-  
lovers. That such dollar-dotted  
tangles should approach  
our ~~Sierra~~ <sup>sacred</sup> ~~Our~~ <sup>Sierra</sup> Temple







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None as far as I have  
learned of all the thousands  
who have seen the Yosemite  
Park is in favor of  
this destruction <sup>water</sup> scheme.  
+ The only hope of its  
promotion <sup>seems to lie</sup> in the  
lack of light darkness  
that covers it.

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3-4-8 is question of invasion  
still asleep on the subject  
Public opinion is not  
as soon as it is  
yet, awakened, <sup>by influence of</sup> on the  
subject, but as soon as  
lights <sup>reach it</sup> as ~~cast upon it~~  
as <sup>soon as</sup> ~~public opinion is awakened~~

I believe that nine tenths  
or more of even the  
~~what would involve the destruction of the H H guard~~  
~~citizens of San Francisco~~ <sup>San Francisco</sup>  
~~and water supply~~ <sup>Nitch Nitchy</sup>  
would be opposed to the  
destruction, <sup>the way to</sup>  
~~scheme~~. The voice of their  
~~San Francisco~~ Board of  
Supervisors is not the voice  
of California nor of the  
Nation.

John M

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