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Letter from Melville B. Anderson to John Muir, 1909 May 11.

Melville B. Anderson

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Menlo Park, California, 22 May, 1909

My dear Mr Muir:

Our friend Browne has told me that you are not very well situated for your work at Martinez. Now Robert is going away the last of the month and I shall be alone and lonely all summer in this big ~~farth~~ ^{big} house. Will you not come down and try camping herewith me for awhile? Do not hesitate but come, if possible, at once. You are free to go away when you get tired of it. We will rig up beds on the porch; in work-hours we can give each other a wide berth; at other times we will drive away the blues with a walk, a talk, a smoke. I have charming friends within a short walk, who live in a natural forest such as you never saw the beat of, - live oaks and white oaks in a fine primitive jungle, tamed just enough to render it accessible. These friends have brains, heart, education, and appreciation of you, together with wealth, leisure, a carriage and an automobile, and would be delighted to carry you wherever you want to go. Browne will certify that you would like them. When you want to join the Sierra Club for a few days in their pilgrimage, I will go with you: Or any where else. Now just tie up in a ~~che~~ ^{ker} handkerchief yr unfinished Ms, yr tooth-brush, yr quill, and other little needments that ~~you cannot part with, turn your~~ ^{refuse to be left behind, lock the door} ~~hand~~ upon the rest, 'Shake' the whole business, and Come!

Here you shall talk of the Yosemite,
And of the carving glacier's artistry,
Read in the oak God's characters to me,
And drat the Devil in the pepper-tree!

I saw F F B safely off from Oakland yesterday: he was sad to go. We talkt much of you and agreed that you would do well to come here and dwell in the tabernacle with me for awhile. I am serious about this: yr coming would be to me a benediction. Cordially Yours,

Melville B. Anderson

John Muir, Esqre, L L D

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