



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1909-11-15

**Letter from John Muir to R[ichard] A. Ballinger, [1909 Nov 15].**

John Muir

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12-13-3-A  
My dear Mr Ballinger:

Many thanks for your kind letter of Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Making the acquaintance of the President & yourself under happiest auspices is the best gift of this eventful year.

I guess from scraps here & there in the press, especially in Colliers that P. seems bent on stirring up barren strife to blot & becloud the good work he has hitherto done. Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad.

The Sierra Club is getting out another pamphlet for the Hetch Hetchy fight we expect in the coming Congress. The scheme for the invasion of Yosemite Park is all bad, founded on cunningly devised fables & honeycombed throughout with personal ambitions & dry rot politics.

San Francisco citizens want pure water, & are looking as they should to the snowy Sierra: but few know or care about

The so-called Hatch Hetchy scheme. All civilized nations instead of spoiling their parks or diminishing their size or numbers are increasing them & appreciating their usefulness more & more fully as places of rest & recreation & spiritual growth. And if you Mr Secretary should be able to see your way to revoke the destructive Garfield grant & obtain legislation to put an end to all such thief & robber schemes all good citizens & lovers of God's handiwork here & everywhere will rise up & call you Blessed.

With sincere respect  
I am faithfully yours  
John Miner

Hon. R. A. Ballinger  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.