



1909-12-14

## Letter from John Muir to [John] Burroughs, 1909 Dec 14.

John Muir

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[need not  
return - C.B.]

Martinez, California

Dec. 14, 1909

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all original

[Now, dear Burroughs, don't waste your good nature. I only did as you requested with the Yosemite geology, but you give me no thanks—only the other stuff.

If obstinacy, unyielding as a Yosemite dome, strangely mixed with love of flowery hills and dales, bees and trees, bird song and brook song, is a Scotch characteristic, then you, my dear John, are as Scottish as I am or ever likely to be. If instead of stubbornly sailing to Hawaiian Moweries and volcanoes you had allowed me to take you to the head fountains of the Merced and Tuolumne on the high Sierra, you would have got plain lessons in ice action and water action and on the relationship of the great valley to existing and ancient glaciers at its head and on either side of it, and to all the other features of the landscape in general.

Little is to be gained on such studies in books and still less in squabbling controversy. Only long plodding observation in the field yields anything worth while, at least to poor dreamy wanderers as dull as I. Earth sculpture, and the life and beauty that goes with it, is a noble study, and now that you have got Yosemite on the brain, why not come again. I'd be delighted to have you, in spite of your rank Scotch Catskill stubbornness, and you might perhaps learn to endure or ignore my glacial behavior and airs.

Anyhow, I am with all good wishes for the New Year, faithfully  
your friend,

John Muir.

I'm sad about Gilder. What a loss we have sustained and all the country. New York seems lonesome to me now he has gone.

J.M.

Should like to  
use this entire  
C.B.

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