



1911-06-25

Letter from John Muir to Houghton Mifflin Co., 1911 Jun 25.

John Muir

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850 Madison Avenue ⁴⁴⁹
New York City

Circle Room

File No.

PL 1007

June 25, 1911

Houghton Mifflin Company
BOSTON OFFICE

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sirs: I like the looks
of my First Summer very
much & thank you for the
pains you have taken to make
a book out of material so
common.

I also thank you for
the doz. copies you have placed
at my disposal for distribution
among my friends. Will you
kindly send them to the following
list with my compliments.

(3)

2

I have been reading over
the M.S. of my autobiography
making corrections and a few
changes. Years ago in reply
to publishers letters I promised
to allow several of the best
publishers to read it before
signing any contract.
I now regret having placed
myself under these obligations,
for I think that an author
should select his publisher
on more general grounds than
a slight difference in royalty.
I have not mentioned your
proposed terms however to any
other publisher.

(3)

Mr Sciffe told me as I was leaving Boston that your proposal was to pay me a royalty of fifteen per cent. on the retail price, increasing to twenty after the sale of ten thousand copies. I can't accept the ten thousand copies clause. But if you will change the terms to twenty per cent on all copies sold I shall send you a corrected copy of the M.S. and sign the contract without further delay. Anyhow, whatever

(13)

luck This first⁴ volume of
my life story may have
I shall remain

Faithfully Yours

John Muir

As to the magazine rights,

P.S. Mr Seife told me
that he thought the
Atlantic and Youths
Companion would
perhaps pay about
\$750. This price seems
far too small. I think
it should be at least
\$1000. J.M.

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