



1911-06-01

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

John Muir

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[Houghton Mifflin Co.] [June, 1911]
~~Miss Vernon L. Kellogg~~

~~Carmel~~

I have been reading over
my ^{1st} ~~2nd~~ ^{3rd} ~~4th~~ ^{5th} ~~6th~~ ^{7th} ~~8th~~ ^{9th} ~~10th~~ ^{11th} ~~12th~~ ^{13th} ~~14th~~ ^{15th} ~~16th~~ ^{17th} ~~18th~~ ^{19th} ~~20th~~ ^{21st} ~~22nd~~ ^{23rd} ~~24th~~ ^{25th} ~~26th~~ ^{27th} ~~28th~~ ^{29th} ~~30th~~ ^{31st} ~~32nd~~ ^{33rd} ~~34th~~ ^{35th} ~~36th~~ ^{37th} ~~38th~~ ^{39th} ~~40th~~ ^{41st} ~~42nd~~ ^{43rd} ~~44th~~ ^{45th} ~~46th~~ ^{47th} ~~48th~~ ^{49th} ~~50th~~ ^{51st} ~~52nd~~ ^{53rd} ~~54th~~ ^{55th} ~~56th~~ ^{57th} ~~58th~~ ^{59th} ~~60th~~ ^{61st} ~~62nd~~ ^{63rd} ~~64th~~ ^{65th} ~~66th~~ ^{67th} ~~68th~~ ^{69th} ~~70th~~ ^{71st} ~~72nd~~ ^{73rd} ~~74th~~ ^{75th} ~~76th~~ ^{77th} ~~78th~~ ^{79th} ~~80th~~ ^{81st} ~~82nd~~ ^{83rd} ~~84th~~ ^{85th} ~~86th~~ ^{87th} ~~88th~~ ^{89th} ~~90th~~ ^{91st} ~~92nd~~ ^{93rd} ~~94th~~ ^{95th} ~~96th~~ ^{97th} ~~98th~~ ^{99th} ~~100th~~
changes.) I cannot to me
say to Mr. Mr. Scarpa that your
proposal was to pay me a royalty
a royalty of fifteen per
cent. on the retail price, increasing
to twenty after the sale of ten thousand
copies. These terms I am sure are
excepting the 1000 copies clause. I do not
like the ten thousand and copies
part of your proposed terms. Should
you feel able to ^{pay me} ~~take~~ the risk of
changing them to 20 percent on
all copies sold, I shall ^{be glad to} ~~be glad to~~
send you a corrected copy of the M.S.

05029

1917

C23

the contract. ^{without further delay} If ~~not~~ ^{possible} please
 send me the copy of the M.S.
 left with you & in any
 case believe ^{whenever} ~~that~~ ^{my} ~~life story~~ ^{may be} ~~may have~~
 been ^{very} ~~valuable~~ ^{valuable} ~~life story~~ ^{may have}
 been ^{very} ~~valuable~~ ^{valuable} ~~life story~~ ^{may have}
 X Years ago in reply to publishers
~~proposing~~ ^{leaving} concerning my auto I
 promised to allow several of them
 to read the M.S. before signing
 any contract. I am now
~~very~~ ^{having} ~~regretting~~ ^{placing} myself
 under these obligations, for
 I think that an author should
 select his publisher on more
 general grounds than a slight
 difference in royalty. However
 I have not mentioned your
 proposed terms to any other
 publisher. There are as ~~still~~

C33

As to the Magazine rights
 Mr. Scaife told me that
 the Youth Companion
 & Atlantic Magazine
 would pay \$ about 750.
 This price seems far too
 small. I think it should
 be at least 1200.

05029

[Rough draft of letter]

[June, 1911].

[Houghton Mifflin Company,
Boston, Mass.]

I have been reading over my 1st vol. Auto[biography] correcting and making slight changes. Your Mr. Scaife conveyed to me that your proposal was to pay me a royalty of fifteen per cent. on the retail price, increasing to twenty after the sales of ten thousand copies. Excepting the 10,000 copies clause there terms are satisfactory. Should you feel able to assume the risk of changing the terms to 20 per cent. on all copies sold, I shall send a corrected copy of the manuscript, and sign the contract without further delay. If not, please send me the copy of the MS. left with you, and in any case, whatever luck may befall this first vol[ume] of my life story, believe me, dear sirs,

faithfully yours,

[John Muir]

Years ago, in reply to publishers' letters concerning my Auto[biography] I promised to allow several of them to read the M.S. 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. However, I have not mentioned your proposed terms to any other publisher. As to the magazine rights Mr. Scaife told me that the Youth's Companion and Atlantic Magazine would pay about \$750. This price seems far too small. I think it should be at least \$1200.