



1911-11-29

Letter from John Muir to Helen [Muir Funk], 1911 Nov 29.

John Muir

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ROYAL HOTEL

BUENOS AIRES

Nov. 29, 1911

Darling Helen,

I was so glad to get
your cheery new letter of the
26th of October on my arrival
from Chile after a long hard
hard but most successful
hunt for *Arancaria imbricata*.

Both Buck & the baby will
doubtless be somebody some
day. As for yourself you have
always been a wonderful
shining somebody since
your first appearance on
this planet.

I crossed the Andes from here
three or four weeks ago to
Santiago. Thence went south
4 or 5 hundred miles to Victoria
thence up the mountains to
the snow & found a glorious
wild *Arancaria* forest feather-
ing the ridges & filling the glacial
valleys & camped among them.
Guess how happy I was & how
I stared at & admired these ancient
trees so long dreamed of.

& what long stories I'll have to
tell you. It's perfectly wonderful
how kind everybody has been
to me, & how lucky I've been.
All I came to seek I've found
& far far more, which tho.
often tired & bewildered in
towns where strange languages
were spoken some friendly
soul always came to my help
as if sent express from heaven
& in a few days or hours I would
find myself at home or even
famous.

My S. American work is all
done. My health is better than
it was when this grand trip
was commenced, & now I'm
only waiting here for a ship to
float me to South Africa, &
when I've had a look at the
peculiar flora & fauna there
& the rocks I mean to turn
homeward. I'm glad you are
keeping all my friends informed
of my wanderings, give them my
love. Wanda I hope is well she
tho. I fear she works too hard,
& frets. No letter from her has
yet reached me. I got your long
good letter from Martinez & sent
reply to Martinez in Tom's care.
I can give no address now.
So I'll not expect to hear from
you again until I reach New York
God be with you during so ever
prays your devoted father John Muir