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## Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1912 Jul 6.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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July 6, 1912  
Dear Mr. [unclear]:

Owen is out today  
after six weeks of typhoid  
at my house, which has kept  
Mr. Johnson and me in town.

I am very anxious to  
get off to the country near  
by & (when Buel comes back  
July 21) to some real vacation.  
Before I go I ought to know  
what our next year's programme  
will be. Can't you let me  
know definitely about the two ar-  
ticles on the Amazon & the Vic-  
toria Falls. I'm trying here to get

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Some Anago pictures.  
Have you any fine ones  
of Victoria Falls? Or can  
you tell me where I can  
get some?

The Argonaut re-  
printed my editorial on  
"The People's National Park"  
& backed it up - I sent it  
to the President & to members  
of the Public Lands Committee  
of both House of Congress

I miss you.

Faithfully yours

R. U. Johnson

I am for Wilson for President. You  
see the Academy furnishes two out of three  
of the candidates.

(copy)

July 5, 1912

To the Editor of The Call,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

I have only just seen your editorial of June 3, in which you accuse me of trickiness in giving the impression that San Francisco is making an assault upon the Yosemite Valley and to sustain the charge quote this paragraph from The Century's editorial on "The People's National Parks" in our June number. You quote:

"Nothing else that California can show as an exhibit (in the Panama-Pacific international exposition) will be comparable to the glories of the Yosemite park. Instead of lending support to a mad and wanton scheme of vandalism toward the Hetch Hetchy, the city should be doing what it can to obtain from congress appropriations to make it accessible to the multitude of travelers who three years hence are sure to visit the most wonderful state in the union. To do otherwise were as though a queen should trample her own crown in the mire."

In order to test the matter I respectfully make this offer:

I will submit to the presidents of the University of California and of the Leland Stanford, Jr University and to yourself, as a committee of three whether the part of my

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editorial quoted by you, or the whole of it, justifies you in this accusation. If a majority of the committee decides in your favor I am to send \$50. to any charity in San Francisco named by you; if against you you are to send me \$50. in a draft on Rome to the order of H. Nelson Gay, as a contribution to the Library of the Keate-Shelley Memorial in Rome, in which I am much interested, and which needs money for books.

In the latter case you are to print an apology to me on the editorial page. In the former, I am to print in The Century that, so far as I know, the city of San Francisco has never had any designs upon the Yosemite Valley, but only on the Hetch-Hetchy and its watershed, comprising about half of the Yosemite National Park. As I have never said anything to the contrary, this will not be difficult for me. It would be like acquitting the man who fired the Ephesian Dome of the charge of having blown up the Pantheon.

Very truly, yours,

R. U. Johnson