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Letter from John Muir to Katharine Hooker, 1912 Oct 30.

John Muir

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Martinez Oct. 30, 1912

Dear friend Katharine Hooker.

I saw Marian last Saturday just for a moment as we stepped from a train at the Palo Alto Station. I was startled & surprised as if she had suddenly appeared on one of my Amazon vine-tangled jungle walks. Strange that we had been in adjacent cars without knowing it, as if in the eternal unfitness of these contrary heart things neither long or short journeys together were ever to be allowed us. She was on a visit to a cousin & I to the Kelloggs, & as we all met in a bunch on the station platform I had no chance to speak to her. Nevertheless the glimpse I got of her face assured me that she was not hurt by overwork as I had feared, but on the joyful contrary was in perfect health buoyant & bright as Aurora in springtime.

At the Yosemite Park Conference I had many opportunities to explain Hetch Hetchy & park affairs in general. Last Friday put the last touches on the Sierra Club's reply to engineer Freeman's one-sided plea for Hetch Hetchy destruction and now I'm busy with my own natural

work. But shut yourself up as you
may there is no perfect peace
anywhere. How unlike the peace
of the wilderness however full
of savage beasts is the war of
the nations over the seas &
beside us in Mexico. And is the
killing of presidents never to
cease? The best loved & most
useful of all the world's rulers
seem always to be the ones selected
for murder. That the assassin's
bullet was providentially turned
aside from Roosevelt's heart
all the good everywhere will thank
God & rejoice!

Love to all who love you
Ever affectionately Yours
near or far in peace or war

John Muir