



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1912-12-29

Letter from John Muir to [Charles Dwight] Willard, [1912 Dec 29].

John Muir

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Dear Mr Willard. I treasure
your noble letter as the best gift
of my new year blessings

I have been one of your many
sincere admirers from the
first day we met, & admiration
has been growing ever greater
as I saw how bravely you held
on your way against deadly odds,
digging hard & deep for bed rock
foundations, making ladders out
of disease & pain ^{climbing} higher

~~and~~ ~~higher~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~calm~~ ~~heights~~ ~~of~~ ~~life~~
and ~~reaching~~ ~~at~~ ~~last~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~finest~~
~~things~~ ~~the~~ ~~finest~~ ~~right~~ ~~humanity~~
~~has~~ ~~to~~ ~~show~~ ~~like~~ ~~God's~~ ~~strong~~
~~pine~~ ~~trees~~ ~~going~~ ~~straight~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~
~~heavens~~ ~~in~~ ~~strength~~ ~~&~~ ~~beauty~~
~~nourished~~ ~~by~~ ~~them~~ ~~from~~ ~~decaying~~
~~branches~~ ~~&~~ ~~leaves.~~ ~~humanity~~ ~~has~~ ~~to~~ ~~show~~

The lesson of your life all should
read. ~~Your~~ ~~letter~~ ~~shows~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~things~~
~~in~~ ~~it~~ ~~as~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~finest~~ ~~things~~
~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~ ~~and~~ ~~can~~
~~be~~ ~~put~~ ~~into~~ ~~words~~ ~~it~~ ~~could~~ ~~not~~ ~~fail~~ ~~to~~ ~~inspire~~
~~&~~ ~~encourage~~ ~~many~~ ~~wanderers~~ ~~on~~
~~many~~ ~~paths~~
lives hard roads. 06767

~~So many are short sighted beholders~~
~~on lifes hard dusty roads~~

There are infinite dupes of life
for as Thoreau ^{well} says, from that which
is next to sleep & death to that which
is ever awake & immortal.

To all who know you Mr Willard
I ~~am~~ ~~glad~~ ~~you~~ ~~are~~ ~~a~~ ~~hero~~ ~~&~~ ~~with~~ ~~regard~~
~~to~~ ~~your~~ ~~great~~ ~~deeds~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~past~~
~~years~~

You have won in these hard fought
life battles. I admire & love you & with
warmest enthusiasm congratulate you
on the victories you have won in these hard
fought life battles. ^{to} ^{the} ^{world} ^{of} ^{light}
I so devoutly pray ^{for} ^{you} ^{and} ^{your} ^{work}

John O'Brien

[Rough draft of letter found in envelope dated Dec. 29, 1912].

[Jan., 1913].

[Charles Dwight Willard]

Dear Mr. Willard:

I treasure your noble letter as the best of my New Year blessings. I have been one of your many admirers from the first day we met, and admiration has been growing ever greater as I saw how bravely you held on your way against deadly odds, digging hard and deep for bed-rock foundations, making ladders out of disease and pain, climbing higher into the calm heights of life, like God's strong aspiring pine trees, going straight to the heavens, nourished by their own decaying branches and leaves. The lesson of your life all should read, for in it there are some of the finest and divinest things humanity has to show. Made into a book it could not fail to awaken and encourage many poor drowsy, forespent wanderers on Life's hard roads. For, as Thoreau well says, there are infinite degrees of life from that which is next to sleep and death to that which is ever awake and immortal.

To all who know you, Mr. Willard, you are a hero. I admire and love you, and with warmest enthusiasm congratulate you on the victories you have won in these hard fought battles. May dear God guide and cheer and comfort you all the rest of your way home to the world of Light, so devoutly prays

Your friend,

John Muir

John Muir

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on the victories you have won in
these hard fought life-battles.

May dear God guide and
cheer and comfort you all the
rest of your way home to the
world of Light. So devoutly
prays your friend
John Muir