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## Letter from Penelope H. Bingenheimer to John Muir, [ca. 1912 ?].

Penelope H. Bingenheimer

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on the subject. <sup>47</sup>

I had a daughter Gertrude who, like me, loves nature, mountains and travel. She went to the Coast with me and would listen with delight to many passages from your Books. She said one day Mother I know why he wasn't afraid way up on that Mountain because he was so full of Love for every teeny weeny thing. I helped her arrange her doll house a recent rainy morning. One room was hung with sea shells and eucalyptus buds, and put a quaint little Keepe man in possession. Now she said Mother that's my John Muir.

[13] 1912 Milwaukee.

Dear Mr Muir

Is there not a saying to the effect, that he who plants a tree needs no marble monument erected to his memory?

Appropos of this I want to tell you that the mountains I retain in my mind's eye to the humblest native flower here in this, everything in nature has grown dearer to me since reading your Books. I read "The Mountains of Cal." in April. Then "Our Nall Parter." and now have your latest book <sup>on</sup> the Yosemite

I especially love the Mountains,  
and my longing for them, was  
changed into gratitude that  
I had not been among them  
much before reading  
your book, on the Cal. Mts.  
I spent Oct and Nov. in  
San Francisco, but lived  
the trip over with delight  
through your pen. I have  
read some books on  
Nature, but nothing that  
ever rang so true with  
Love as yours.

I wonder if I could  
trouble you for the  
probable age of the largest  
Sequois in Muir Woods?

I wrote your State Geologist  
and he thought about 500  
years. I felt according  
to your dimension and  
heights would of specimens  
that they must be older.

Do you still hold to  
your theory that the  
Sequois attract the  
water courses? I noticed  
in a magazine this  
summer an article from  
someone inquiring into  
the matter that their  
theory was that the  
water attracted the trees,  
in no way was the  
article so weighty as your  
thoughts and research on

room!"

I dared to address  
you, knowing the good  
we do returns to bless  
us. And it is yours  
to know the refreshment  
and joy you Lee has  
given to me two, who  
otherwise might have  
been sighing and wishing  
to go on the train, where  
you have first taken  
us in mind.

on my books

The good your works  
must have done. And  
will continue to do  
is inestimable.

May I ask if you  
are related to the  
Muir family of  
Waukesha?

Thanking you. I  
remain Sincerely yours

Mrs. Penelope H. Bingenheimer  
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05843