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Letter from Harrison Smith to John Muir, 1914 Jan 15.

Harrison Smith

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THE CENTURY CO.
UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK

January 15, 1914.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

My dear Mr. Muir:

It has been some time since Mr. Ellsworth wrote you asking if we could use, for the small series of Geographical Readers, which I am editing, a brief version of the articles on "The Mountains of California" and "The Forests" from your book.

As you requested, I am sending you the proofs of both of them. As you will see, the article on the Mountains has been made extremely short, and I confess to a good deal of hesitancy in sending it to you, as I realize how I should feel about permitting anyone to hack at my own work. In view of your possible unwillingness to let us use this short insert, I have prepared a longer and practically unchanged version of the same chapter. In this the changes merely consist in the omission of a few too difficult words and an occasional paragraph that would not be understood. I do not think that you will object to the article on "The Forests." I am trusting a good deal to your good nature, but I sincerely hope that you will let me have them, in their present form

in proof. Roosevelt, Stevenson, John Burroughs and Baker are represented in this first volume of the series, so that you will be in good company.

My only experience of the Sierra country comes from a flying trip that I made to Lake Tahoe two years ago, just after I graduated from college, and I have made up my mind to use the San Francisco fair next year as an excuse, for a long tramp through some real mountains.

Mr. Benet, one of the young editors of the magazine, wishes me to remember him to you.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Smith

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