



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1914-02-20

Letter from E. S. Goodhue to John Muir, 1914 Feb 20.

E. S. Goodhue

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#242 Sutter St.,
San Francisco
Feb. 20 1914.

Dear Mr. Muir:-

If possible before we sail, March 3rd we are going to spend part of a day with you. I would like (if you do not object) to have a little more data for a sketch in our "Mid Pacific Magazine". However, should this be distasteful to you, I'll not write a word.

Our people are great lovers of nature, and regard you with affection -

In view of your recent illness and the desirability of a change - would not a trip to Hawaii do you good?

I have a big house in the Chamae section of Hawaii, some 1000 feet up the mountain-side, in the woods, where I live.

Here on 8 acres rather overgrown I live almost alone. My wife will be exact for about a year, my children at school, and you would be as much alone as you wished, unadvertised and free from intrusion.

I keep a boy, and our meals are simple.

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sewed at any time desired. No household regulations of any sort with room for individual preference and habit.

Usually go out in my auto seeing day nothing calls, there being a good road around the island, 210 miles. Down to Papaia 40 miles.

Trails lead down to the sea or up the mountain every half mile or so. The lehua woods are new - Koa forests at an elevation of about 4000 feet.

I visit a Koa camp once every 60 days - here the wood is cut and sent away as "Hawaiian mokohouy". -

Outings may be made daily, and one can easily reach every point where trees grow, up Mauna Kea, Moana Loa & Hualalai.

I think you would enjoy 6 mos or a year of this, but my belief is that it would build you up physically & give you a lease of life. For Hawaii is an Aloha's country, sedative in effect -

My house is open - verandas and rooms open to butterflies and breezes.

I should be very glad to have you stay with me,
and I would treat you as one of ourselves,
leaving you to your own free will.

I have a pretty good library, books of reference,
and as good a collection of books as Hawaii
as any, typewriters, etc.

You could come directly to Hilo - on the other
side of island, and reach us unharassed.

We can talk the matter over when I come.

Very sincerely
E. S. Goodhue