



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1914-06-13

Letter from Nelson F. Evans to John Muir, 1914 Jun 13.

Nelson F. Evans

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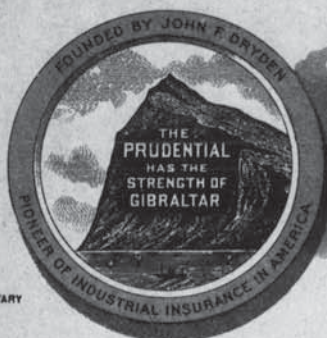
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C. A. FOEHL, MANAGER FOR EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

NELSON F. EVANS, SUPT. OF AGENTS
ORDINARY DEPARTMENT
EIGHTH FLOOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

June 13, 1914.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

Dear Mr. Muir:

The inquiry in your good letter of April 4 in reply to mine of March 10th has awaited an opportunity to refresh my memory about our pioneer Yosemite trip to the top of the North wall in 1870.

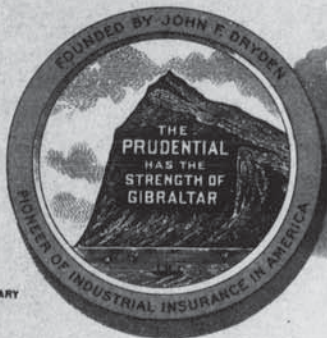
I have found a diary kept by one of the ladies, whom I afterward married, and with its aid I am able to give you the following facts:

My immediate companion on my California trip that summer was Rev. Francis L. Robbins, then Pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Philadelphia. On the trip to the Calaveras Grove and Yosemite Valley there were with us a part of the time Hon. John Patton, a member of Congress and a banker from Pennsylvania, with his two sons Alexander and John, and Rev. Mark Hopkins, D.D., President of Williams College, and his wife and daughter, and two ladies placed in my care by Rev. A. L. Stone, Pastor of the First Congregational Church in San Francisco, both from Rockland, Maine, one Miss Lucy Hatch, the other Mrs. Laura Snow Wood, a widow, whom I married a year later.

You and I planned the trip to the Three Brothers and the only persons who accompanied us were Mr. Robbins, these two ladies and one

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other gentleman whose name I cannot recall.

As we approached the summit of Three Brothers late in the afternoon of August 3, 1870, an eagle, disturbed by our approach, flew away from this summit quite near to us; whereupon Laura said to you, I name this Eagle Peak; and you replied that shall be its name. You evidently faithfully kept this promise, for I find in the U. S. Government maps of Yosemite region that mountain top is in all of them named Eagle Peak. It is a pleasant reflection for me and my daughters, that my wife and their mother named a mountain, on the pioneer trip to that mountain with the distinguished John Muir as a guide. You said no white woman, and indeed no party of tourists, had ever been there before us.

You are therefore justified in recording the following names as the party conducted by you and your Indian helper:

Nelson F. Evans :	Philadelphia.
Francis L. Robbins:	
Laura Snow Wood:	Rockland, Maine.
Lucy Hatch :	

I shall be very grateful if you will advise me where I can purchase the volume you are to write, in which you may mention this incident. With best wishes for your health and happiness in this pretty good old world for yet many years.

Yours respectfully,

Nelson F. Evans