



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1894-07-30

Letter from James D[avie] Butler to John Muir, 1894 Jul 30.

James Davie Butler

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John Muir.

Superior, July 30, '94

My dear Friend.

How do I account for your sepulchral silence? You have gone to rescue Sheldon Jackson who, as I have noted, was stranded on some furthest shore while jeopardizing his life as the apostle of the Aleuts. — But you ought to be home by this time — from an enterprise like Stanley's plunge to bring up Livingston from the depths of darkest Africa.

I am just landed here after an Itinerarium ecstatiarum. As asked by the Am. Ant. Soc. of which since Bancroft's death I am amongst the half-dozen of longest standing, I addressed them at their Boston annual. I talked about a long-lost journal of the Lewis and Clark overland. Interviews, which I had long desired with Winthrop, Holmes, and Norton, — I had. My after-calls were many, in Wellesley, Natick, Worcester, Charlemont, Norwich, Brooklyn, Kinderhook, Bennington, Puttand, Woodstock, Burlington, Essex, etc. In all, and in many more, I found old friends, — one here and there upon the vast abyss, — and thanks to youthful memories — we rejuvenated. 01833

The Green Mts. are not sublime - but they are charming. Lake George which I went through for the 4th time. - I know not where it has a rival in islets multitudinous.

In Ohio I had a week with a sister five years my senior. yet her hair is abundant and retains its natural color.

After a Detroit visit with a friend made on the Nile in 1868. - I steamed hither on a steamer no whit behind the 2^d which bore me round the globe. In electric it is in advance of whatever was possible till these last years. Often have I made excursions on this chiefest among our ten thousand unsalted sea. but never before have I laid behind me all its 302 miles of length.

All my children are here - Here we abide till the heated term is over. - Henry remembers with gratitude your early mouldings, and regrets that this visit to Everett was on flying wings. - which made it impossible to find you out. Let us hope the rebellion of the members against the belly is over. - and that no hand will say to the head, "I have no need of thee." - Very respectfully. Yrs.
James D. Butler.