



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1894-10-20

**Letter from J. E. Mathewson to John Muir, 1894 Oct 20.**

J. E. Mathewson

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Tilghman's Patent Sand Blast Co.  
 Bellefield Works.  
 Limited.

Sheffield. October 20<sup>th</sup> /94.

PATENTEES  
 AND  
 MANUFACTURERS  
 OF  
**SAND BLAST  
 APPARATUS**  
 FOR  
 REMOVING SCALE  
 FROM  
 IRON AND STEEL PLATES,  
 BARS, FORGINGS, &c.  
 —  
 CLEANING  
 IRON, STEEL AND BRASS  
 CASTINGS.  
 —  
 SHARPENING  
 AND SCOURING  
 FILES, RASPS, &c.  
 —  
 FROSTING, MARKING,  
 PERFORATING  
 AND  
 DECORATING  
 SHEET AND PLATE GLASS,  
 TABLE GLASS,  
 GLOBES AND CHIMNEYS,  
 BOTTLES, &c.,  
 —  
 CUTTING ORNAMENTS  
 AND LETTERS  
 ON GRANITE, MARBLE, &c.

My dear friend Muir  
 Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, has  
 been forwarded to me here, having been unable to  
 complete the arrangements for the proposed business  
 trip to the States. The letter afforded me the greatest  
 pleasure & satisfaction, I thought perhaps you might  
 have long since forgotten me. My memory of you  
 fails me in matters not fixed by some striking event,  
 but I never lost sight, in the minds eye, of my old  
 school fellow Muir. In fact I have mentioned you &  
 the wooden clock to friends hundreds of times - my  
 family in particular. I recognized the portrait in the  
 Century Magazine at first sight. Was that from a  
 recent photograph? If yes, you have not changed  
 at all. I am often told, when I go back to the States,  
 that I do not change, but look as young as ever.  
 Temperance in living has done something for  
 both of us in that direction. I have always  
 remained a teetotaler & a non user of Tobacco in  
 any form, and for the past five years have not  
 allowed myself to be classed with the flesh eating  
 animals, - lions, tigers, panthers, bears, hyenas &  
 wild cats, but rather with the animals who live on  
 the fruits of the earth - the cow, horse, sheep & for instance.  
 From what I have gleaned from your writings, I imagine  
 that you must be somewhat inclined the same way.  
 Scotsmen I believe live mainly upon "Parritoh's milk".  
 My family are with me in this matter, otherwise it  
 would have been a difficult scheme to carry out.

01859

I came across another article, <sup>the other day</sup> in the Century written by you entitled, "A rival to the Yosemite" or words to that effect, which we read with great interest. We are all anxious to see & read your new book, no doubt we shall be able to get it through one of the Northwells here.

I can remember but two or three of the students whom you mention; only by name at that. The Professors I remember distinctly. One of the present Professors roomed with me for one term. He was a German & his name was pronounced Oebon. I cannot ~~remember~~ remember how it was spelled. This I heard from a friend of ours, from Wisconsin, who came abroad & lived with us here two or three years, but is now married & lives in San Francisco. I do not remember her ~~two~~ husband's name, but he is a journalist. Her name was Medora Clark & writes poetry &c. Will let you know her name & address in my next. I remember the old jamina very well, I used to keep on the right side of him in order to have the liberty to go down in the basement & occasionally make indian meal pudding. We lived low as you say, but we were without doubt the gainers by it in health as well as in pocket.

Am very sorry indeed that I did not notice the sketch of your life in the Century Magazine when it first appeared. Am sure you would have been interested in Smoky Shiffled, & in Derbyshire in which County <sup>part of</sup> Shiffled lies. There are no real glaciers here but their tracks are numerous & well defined. I would have been a great pleasure to have heard you explain how the Country appeared during the Glacial period. I will remember of attending a course of lectures on Geology by Prof. Denton, <sup>given</sup> in a hall in Madison - not at the University. Did you & I attend them together?

I cannot say now when I shall be able to start on my trip to the States - perhaps not until next Spring. However it will be impossible for me to spare the time to go out to California, this time. But nothing would give me greater pleasure than to do so, when there is an opportunity.

My family join me in sending kind regards to yourself & family. Hoping to hear from you soon again, I remain,  
Hope you will be able to read my bad writing. Yours sincerely,  
J. S. Mathews.