



1894-11-09

## Letter from W[illiam] P. Gibbons to [John Muir], 1894 Nov 9.

William P. Gibbons

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Alameda 11/9th 1894.

Dear John

Here I am, again in my old quarters, where my brain has been so long ~~absorbing~~ absorbing nutriment from surrounding books, like a calf sucking milk from its mother's udder. There's plenty of milk left, but some how or other the apparatus for taking it in, is not in such complete order as in days past; & maybe, the mental appetite is not so ravenous, as when the arguments of Knowledge brought in their previous freight during the noon day of manhood.

What think you? A month ago, after winnowing out most of the chaff from the MS. which was returned to me from the Century Mag. with a polite note that they had "the pleasure of reading it" but—&c. I mailed it to Scribner, & like the prodigal sow, it came home again last week, accompanied with the usual "but." Those publishers must have some pretty good goat's foreheads. Now I know there's not a line of nonsense or chaff in that paper, & I would not have been ashamed to subject it to the criticism of the lamented Dr. Holmes or any other master spirit of the literary world; & more than that, it's all new matter. Well, I own to be disappointed, es-

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pecially now, when the nettles of necessity are impinging  
on the sensitive membrane of feeling. Well now, my dear  
friend, I want your counsel. Is it worth my time to be  
operating time on these objects? I have enough for two papers  
on Oregon trees: - a paper on the Redwoods - One on Oaks & other  
trees of our eremial - One on deserted Mining towns, with-  
out illustrations: & lots of unsorted notes of early Cal days:  
Also, an interesting paper with illustrations on the struggles for  
human dignities  
Life, among trees. If I could turn these to some account, I would  
be glad to do it.

As soon as I can find a niche of time, I pur-  
pose making a short visit to you. Give my kindest re-  
gards to the family & believe me as ever

Very truly Yours

W. W. Gibbons