



1894-12-23

## Letter from John Turnbull to John Muir, 1894 Dec 23.

John Turnbull

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Last summer I went no further  
for my holidays than Inverness.  
I went there however by way of the  
Rossach and Caledonian Canals a  
charming trip.

I thank you much for your  
invitation. I am afraid however  
I shall never be able to accept it.  
Distance and increasing years are  
a like prohibitive. I should be  
delighted if I saw any prospect, to  
meet you once more.

I notice your trip had nearly a  
tragic end. I hope the ship has  
left no evil effects. I do not  
know if you passed through Roman  
City on your way home, but I re-  
gretted afterwards I did not think  
of it, to ask you to call on my two  
sons who are employed there in Messrs  
Swig & Co's establishment. They would  
know have been delighted and I feel  
certain you would not have refused.

As I am near the end of my paper, and  
I am exhausted by our parting I will conclude  
by wishing you every happy New Year and many returns.  
I have been delighted to receive a letter from you again.  
Your very sincere friend John Turnbull

Galashiels 23 Dec. 1894

My Dear Mr Muir

To my annoyance and  
my shame, I find that it is almost  
exactly twelve months since I got  
your esteemed letter. I do not  
know how to apologise for  
leaving your letter so long un-  
answered. I meant to write, but  
time slipped on, and the earth  
has been allowed to complete  
almost a revolution in its orbit  
before I have finally made up  
my mind to perform a duty so  
long delayed.

I was proud to receive your  
letter. It was a pleasant remembrance  
of a pleasant time the enjoyment  
of which was so greatly due to  
you. I have always look back  
with pleasure on my Norwegian trip  
from which I derived much information

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contributed more of yourself. To me your companionship was invaluable. Your intimate knowledge of glacial action contributed in what I regarded and still regard as charming language, rendered the trip more than a pleasure one. Without you the scenery we passed through would have been grand and awe inspiring but your eloquent descriptions of how the fjords had been scooped out and the rocks shorn down by the mighty ice rivers gave the whole an interest and a meaning. Otherwise, it would have been without. And what was one of the most enjoyable features of our trip was the fun and laughter in the saloon where we sat, at least.

And now I have to thank you for another proof of your friendship. Yesterday I received a copy of your work on the "Mammals of California".

It is a graceful gift, gracefully made. Of course I have not had time to read it but I have dipped in here and there, and I find it an exquisite piece of word painting. You possess rare descriptive powers. I anticipate great pleasure from the perusal. I have already read several of your contributions to the "Century", which I fortunately possess.

I do not suppose you have even met with any of our old comrades of the St. Linnia? It is not likely. I have not. Of our two Odewick friends one only. I have seen & merely to nod to. Mr. Syme. By the way you may be interested to know that Mr. Syme and Mr. Dunbar have become brothers-in-law - the former having married a sister, or the sister of the latter.



Galashills, 23 Dec. 1894.

My dear Mr. Muir:

To my amazement and my shame, I find that it is almost exactly twelve months since I got your esteemed letter. I do not know how to apologize for leaving your letter so long unanswered. I meant to write, but time slipped on, and the earth has been allowed to complete almost a revolution in its orbit before I have finally made up my mind to perform a duty so long delayed.

I was proud to receive your letter. It was a pleasing remembrance of a pleasant time, the enjoyment of which was so greatly due to you. I shall always look back with pleasure on my Norwegian trip, from which I derived much information contributed mainly by yourself. To me your companionship was invaluable. Your intimate knowledge of glacial action contributed in what I regarded and still regard charming language, rendered the trip more than a pleasure to me. Without you the scenery we passed through would have been grand and awe-inspiring, but your eloquent descriptions of how the fjords had been scooped out and the rocks shown down by the mighty ice rivers gave the whole an interest and a meaning otherwise it would have been without. And what was one of the most enjoyable features of our trip was the fun and laughter in the saloon, where we sat, at least.

And now I have to thank you for another proof of your friendship. Yesterday I received a copy of your work on the "Mountains of California." It is a graceful gift, gracefully made. Of course I have not had time to read it, but I have dipped in here and there, and I find it an exquisite piece of word painting. You possess rare descriptive powers. I anticipate great pleasure from the perusal. I have already read several of your contributions to the "Century," which I fortunately possess.

I do not suppose you have ever met with any of our old comrades of the St. Sunniva? It is not likely -- I have not. Of our two Kenwick friends, one only I have seen, and merely to nod to, Mr. Lynne. By the way, you may be interested to know that Mr. Lynne and Mr. Turnbull have become brothers-in-law, the former having married a sister or the sister of the latter.

Last summer I went no further for my holidays than Inverness. I went there, however, by way of the Trossacks and Caledonian Canal, a charming trip.

I thank you much for your invitation. I am afraid, however, I shall never be able to accept it. Distance and increasing years are alike prohibitive. I should be delighted if I saw any prospect to meet you once more. I notice your trip had nearly a tragic end. I hope the shake has left no evil effects. I do not know if you passed through Kansas City on your way home, but I regretted afterwards I did not think of it, to ask you to call on my two sons who are employed there in Messrs. Swift & Co. establishment. They would, I know, have been delighted and I feel certain you would not have refused.

As I am near the end of my paper, and I dare say [have] exhausted your patience, I will conclude by wishing you a very happy New Year, and many returns. I will be delighted to receive a letter from you again.

Your very sincere friend,

John Turnbull