



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1895-01-04

Letter from A[lexander] W. Drake to John Muir, 1895 Jan 4.

Alexander W. Drake

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January 4, 1895.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, California.

My dear Mr. Muir,

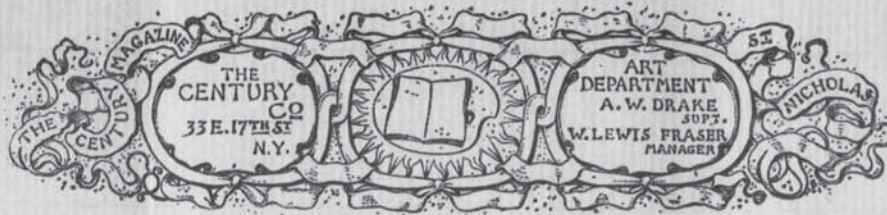
I had hoped to have time write you a personal letter before this, but I have been more than overwhelmed with office and home and social affairs, so that I have scarcely had an evening to myself since my return. So at last I am forced to resort to a dictated letter, and that in cold typewriting, but you will pardon me, I am sure. I have thought of you often, of my delightful visit at your house, and of the hospitality so kindly extended to me by Mrs. Muir and yourself.

Mr. Will H. Drake is still in the vicinity of Pasadena, where he has been doing the missions.

Mr. Johnson has been urging me to get the illustrations ready for your first article on Muir Glacier, the manuscript of which has gone back to you for revision, and which I have not seen.

One thing I would like very much to have you do if possible. That is, to have a good photograph taken of the excellent painting of Muir Glacier by Thomas Hill - the one

01913

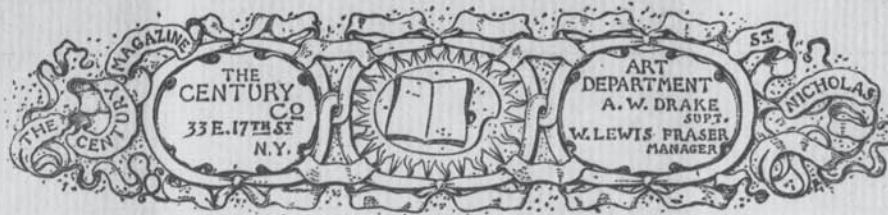


with the boat in the foreground, which I think gives the best idea of the Glacier of anything I have seen, either photograph or drawing. Also, will you kindly send me other photographs which you think will help to illustrate the article.

It would be a great assistance to me if you could forward your article soon so that I may read it and know just what to do. The other article, "An Alaska Trip", I read while on my way to Sitka, and was much interested in it. To my mind, it gives a splendid idea of the voyage and I am sure will be a very strong incentive to people to visit that remarkable region.

Perhaps you have a good photographer in your vicinity who can take a photograph of Mr. Thomas Hill's painting. If not, could you not take it out of the frame and send it to San Francisco? Of course we will pay all expenses connected with it. I am extremely anxious to get the best possible photograph of it. Please have a negative made 8 X 10 inches. I do not wish to hurry you in the matter, but the editors have put this article down for an early spring number and we have less than a month to get it ready, so any help you can give

01913



me will be much appreciated. We shall probably have to discard some of the pictures already made for your article, for I know you are not pleased with them. However, in justice to the artist who drew them I will say that no one, without having been to Alaska, could get any idea of the beauty and grandeur of that never-to-be-forgotten country. Has Keith or any of the other San Francisco artists done anything of Muir Glacier which you think would reproduce well for this article? We want the best and only the best. I do hope you may have something which will help me in the way of illustrations. It is so difficult for me to know just what to select as illustrating the article. If you will pick out such photographs as you may have, indicating which you think will give the best idea to the public, I will do all I can to have them well drawn.

Wishing you and Mrs. Muir and the young ladies a very Happy New Year, I remain

Yours sincerely,

A. W. Drake

01913