



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1895-02-07

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1895 Feb 7.

John Muir

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Martinez, Feb. 7, 1845

My dear Mr Johnson, I take great pleasure in sending you today by registered mail the hard rubbed MS of Glacier Bay. I have done my best on it & believe I have now a capital article. Like a carpenter building with precious old lumber —

- I, in tale adjoining,  
Lift old treasures into day;  
If not gold or perfect coining,  
They are metals anyway;

Thou canst sort them, thou canst sunder,

Thou canst melt & make them one;

Then take that with smiling wonder,

Stamp it like thyself my son. if you like

for I'll be hanged if I spend more  
time on it. I've written every word of it over again.

Sargent sent me this the other day, which though too praisey for most people to see I am tempted to send you.

"I am reading your Sierra book & I want to tell you that I have never read descriptions of trees that so pictured them to the mind as yours do. No fellow who was at once a poet, naturalist, & a keen observer has to my knowledge ever written about trees before, & I believe you are the man who ought to have written a Silva of North America. Your book is one of the great productions of its kind & I congratulate you on it."

This is confidential, don't show it to anybody. Ever yours, J. M. Merriam