



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1893-02-21

**Letter from Ripley Hitchcock [D. Appleton & Co.] to John Muir,  
1893 Feb 21.**

Ripley Hitchcock

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Feb. 21, 1893

John Muir, Esq.,  
Martinez, Contra Costa Co., Cal.

Dear Sir:

I shall take the liberty of introducing myself and of addressing you directly as the literary adviser of D. Appleton & Co. I have been a reader of your articles in the Century and elsewhere, and I also happen to have a more extensive knowledge of the west, derived from personal observation, than is the case perhaps with most eastern people. You will pardon this personal preamble to the suggestion which I have been very anxious to make, which is this: It seems to me that a book upon American mountains and mountaineering, dealing with the great peaks of the west, and perhaps of Alaska, might be written in a way to attract popular interest. Of course it is a popular rather than a scientific book which I have in mind, but at the same time such a book to possess any weight should be written by an authority like yourself. Every year sees several books added to the mass of Alpine literature, and I see no reason why our own great mountains are not worthy of a volume which would make Americans better acquainted with the magnificent scenery of their own country. I feel that there is no one better qualified than yourself to write a standard book on the great mountains of the west, dealing not only with scenery, but with mountaineering experiences, and with the animal life of the mountains, and I hope very earnestly that you may be induced to consider this suggestion. Of course it will be possible <sup>if not too expensive</sup> to illustrate such a book in a very beautiful manner. May I ask you to consider this suggestion at your convenience? I trust that your reply may not be altogether

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J. M.

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unfavorable.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

*Ripley Hitchcock*

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