



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1877-10-13

Letter from Annie K[ennedy] Bidwell to John Muir, 1877 Oct 13.

Annie Kennedy Bidwell

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loveliness when the fruit trees are
in bloom, so you must come and
see for yourself. I regret to have to
say my sister leaves for Washington
on Tuesday next. It is my purpose
to go a day's journey with her, that
she may feel less lonely (which of
course she will if located for a day
with me ere being left alone.)

General suggest I stop at Lake Tahoe, but
that is out of the question. How pleas-
ant if we could all visit Kings
river as a camping party. But alas!

As I am so busy today, and have
written in such haste, having invited
company to tea tonight, & having many
calls to make this afternoon, you will
pardon me for sending such a poor
return for your good letter, but I prom-
ise to make my next better.

Wishing you every joy in your antici-
pated expedition, and a safe return,

believe me,
Very Sincerely Your friend
Annie K. Bidwell
Rancho Chico
Oct. 13th 1879

Mr. Miner.

My dear friend.

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We were
rejoiced last evening to receive such
good news from you, as yours from
Sacramento, of the 10th inst., contained.
Glad of your pleasant and safe trip
in that perilous little "Spoon bill," or
"snag jumper," the "make" of which
filled us with apprehension lest
it would at least drop you into
the waters of the Sacramento. I think

the "flag ship" deserved a fourth
name; that of "acrobat", since it
proved itself such a dancer on,
and over, snags, & brought you at
last safely into port. We have been
really anxious about your trip,

and felt greatly relieved and gratified to learn how pleasantly you were spending the days which we feared were proving anything but agreeable. General predicted you would "cut across the country to the Rail Road" if disgusted with "Spoonbill", & the slow traveling. Lillie's fear was "snags," and time, so many days sitting in the hot sun. There is no comparison between walking in the sun, & sitting in its glare for days, on the water, hence my anxiety. But all ended pleasantly, & we congratulate you, & ourselves, that it did, since our miserable Carpenter made the boat, and also because of our regard for Mr John Muir!

Many thanks for your charming letter, which

proved a real treat to us, from beginning to end, and made us express the hope that the future would find us the recipients of others. We laughed and cried over the exploits of "Spoonbill", and enjoyed the more instructive portions of the letter, equally, though not so merrily, of course. What a fine trip we did have in "The Sierras"! It is a constant pleasure to dwell on the scenes of grandeur & beauty there witnessed.

Am glad you think pleasantly of our home, and dear Chico creek, even if it has become so soiled by sawdust and mud. We shall hope to have the pleasure of showing you Rancho Chico in winter. You have no idea of its

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