



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1879-01-15

Letter from S. E. Wells to John Muir, 1879 Jan 15.

S. E. Wells

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Elizabeth N. New Jersey

Wed. Jan 15th. 1879.

John Muir

Sir.

For more than twenty
five years, as opportunity offered, I have as-
ked returned Californians, the name of a
plant found in the Prayer Book of a relative
who died at Sacramento -

Having made your acquaintance through the
fresh, poetic & instructive articles in "Scribner".
I take the liberty to send a leaf & imperfect
description of the flower, - which is perhaps un-
necessary - and must be very meagre, having
been pressed so many years, & fastened on paper.

^{stem woody - leaves irregular.}
Calyx, probably three leaved. Corolla three
petalled - more than two inches in length, with

00825

their own distinctive tones & have often listened - but without coming to any conclusion. Trusting you will excuse the intrusion -

I am respectfully & eagerly

S. E. Webb.

4741 West Levey St.

longitudinal veins - Calyx nearly half the length of Corolla, both of a reddish brown - My uncle went "around the Horn" or rather through the Straits of Magellan in '49 - having a very quick passage, they were not likely to put in at any port - from which I infer the plant belongs to California - Of a complete outfit, all that ever came home was his Bible, Prayer Book, & a very coarse, dirty cloth, a quantity of pebbles, about the size of & resembling beans, ^{many} all colors, but ^{none} white, & a perfect arrow head - small - white, almost translucent - I mention this, as there may be some connexion between the two - so far as location is concerned - for in the short, rough life of a miner, there might not come many moods, in which he would give his time to the careful pressing of a flower, or the selection of curious stones - Smuggling in the tree tops, during a gale, was the dream of my youth - therefore the more enjoyed as the experience of another - At other times, than Bones & Spices, have