



[John Muir Correspondence \(PDFs\)](#)

1873-10-29

**Letter from E[zra] S. Carr and Jeanne Carr to Louie Strentzel, 1873
Oct 29.**

Ezra S. Carr

Jeanne C. Carr

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their movements. I want you to know my John Mini - and I wish I could give him to some noble young woman 'ja keeps; & so ~~take~~ take him out of the wildness into the society of his peers. As he is coming to spend the winter with us. I hope you will meet. But it is awfully provoking that I cannot gather all my pets into a home which would be attractive to them, & some expression of myself. My homes hitherto have been large & roomier bodies expressing my individuality so well, that you would have felt acquainted with me, & with all my beloveds. Had you been shut up then all by yourself. I always expected to see you another bonnie face by my English side, which does not mean a stow, or a hole in the floor!

Thank the father as he should be thanked. The party names were printed not so the unspeakable kindness. Loving you all, dearly. we are your obliged
Ed & Emma Carr.

University of California,

Oakland, Cal.

Oct. 29, 1873.

Dear Louie.

I received your letter only to day. but should not have waited for it to thank your father for the grapes. The grapes came last Monday morning, we had a notice that they were at the express office Sat evening too late to get them before the hour of closing. That was the day after the meeting of the Club.

He distributed them immorally among the funds - and left for San Jose. when the State Grange were in convention last week. which with some doing in the Normal School

Kept us all the week. The subject
before the Club was Fruit Nomenclature²²
and I did not therefore prepare any
elaborate account of my trip & occupied
only half an hour - which it seems
was an 'appetizer' for I am requested
to repeat it with amplifications for
the benefit of the Oakland Library.
Should this be one of a series of readings
for their benefit I will let you know.

I am very much defrauded &
as much provoked that I believed
the promise made to us about houses
at Berkeley. Dr Merrill who has
been the principal Regent engaged
in building operations assured me
that our houses would be completed
by the 18th of September, and ^{just as I was starting for} ^{the 18th} as I
was far beyond Post Office - I felt

I am very sorry to hear the father is ailing. I had not for long.

that I must submit myself to that time. He on Sunday for
the necessary morning. Came home about evening my son -
Darius (the most delightful woman son had or will have)
I spend a cheerful afternoon between the hands of George
Rome, around Mr. Whiting D. & to take a forenoon journey
from the Harbor, in which I could have a companion (I am
not I know there was no horse and no morning in that
case. It says me to read the fine letters I have received since
I left them & know what might have been. They have been
in entirely unbroken ways - but all the time with animals, so
that the fatigue was nothing to them already some. The each prob-
ably conjunction of kindred spirits will ever occur again, nor shall
I ever find myself with gentlemen whom companionship is so unbroken.
I never now felt that I was an acquaintance - or unbroken upon

University of California,
Oakland, Cal.,
Oct. 29, 1873.

Dear Louie:

I received your letter only to-day, but should not have waited for it to thank your father for the grapes. The grapes came last Monday morning. We had a notice that they were at the express office Sat. evening too late to get them before the hour of closing. That was the day after the meeting of the Club. We distributed them immediately among the friends -- and left for San Jose! where the State Grange were in convention last week, which with some doings in the Normal School, kept us all the week. The subject before the Club was Fruit Nomenclature, and I did not therefore prepare any elaborate account of my trip, and occupied only half an hour - which it seems was an "appetizer" for I am requested to repeat it with amplifications for the benefit of the Oakland Library. Should this be one of a series of readings for their benefit I will let you know.

I am very much defrauded and as much provoked that I believed the promises made to us about homes at Berkeley. Dr. Merritt, who has been the principal Regent engaged in building operations, assured me that our houses would be completed by the 18th of September, just as I was starting for the mountains, and as I was far beyond post offices I felt that I must limit myself to that time and be on hand for the necessary moving. Came home alone, leaving my companions (the most delightful woman ever had or will have) to spend a blissful Autumn between the head of Kings River, around Mt. Whitney, etc., and to take a horseback journey from there to Shasta, in which I could have accompanied them had I known there was no home and no moving in the case. It vexes me to read the five letters I have received since I left them and know what might have been. They have been in entirely untrodden ways - but all the time with animals, so that the fatigues were nothing to these already borne. No such fortunate conjunction of kindred spirits will ever occur again, nor shall I ever find myself with gentlemen whose companionship is so instructive. I never once felt that I was an incumbrance - or restraint upon their movements.

I want you to know my John Muir - and I wish I could give him to some noble young woman 'for keeps' and so take him out of the wilderness into the society of his peers. As he is coming to spend the winter with us, I hope you will meet. But it is awfully provoking that I cannot gather all my pets into a home which would be attractive to them, and some expression of myself. My homes hitherto have been larger and roomier bodies, expressing my individuality so well, that you would have felt acquainted with me, and with all my beloveds, had you been shut up there all by yourself. I always expected to see your mother's bonnie face by my ingleside, which does not mean a stone, or a hole in the floor!

Thank the father as he should be thanked. The pretty leaves were spoiled - not so the unspoilable kindness. Loving you all dearly, we are,
Your obliged,

E. S. & Jeanne Carr

I am very sorry to hear the father is ailing - I trust not for long.