



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1885-03-16

Letter from N. D. Stebbins to John Muir, 1885 Mar 16.

N. D. Stebbins

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Recommended Citation

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Santa Barbara April 14th 85

Dear friend Mear

You may be disappointed to find this old betwixtman plus there again in Cal. It is even so for a short time. I came here in Dec. by my way I called at our old friends Dr & Mrs Carr. They have a lovely home - like Mrs. Mear's. I remained with them one night. When I left she spoke of you & yours especially the little girl with much affection. - You may wonder why I trouble your eyes with my scribbles - I'll tell you. I met with the old Fritz boy in Santa Barbara in which I am an honorary member

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and at one of its meetings
I brought up the subject of
Prof Whitney's Calaveras
skull & the opinion I had
just recd. from Prof Dana
of New Haven - doubting the
verity of the history as given
by the Prof or the Miner - It
has led to a news paper dis-
cussion on the age of man
& the truthfulness of this skull
being found where Prof Whitney
has published ~~to be~~ found
I would like to know if you
know anything about it?
And when I can find Prof
Whitney's statement that
the Tuolumne meadows
were good growing lands &
already covered with good
pasturage - Give me this
reports whatever if you recollect
I will be very obliged to you

The story when I saw
you in Yosemite Valley
if you recollect I can tell
me I will be obliged -

My farewell runs out in
June next - when I expect to
return to Wash. I may be
obliged to go to San Francisco
if so I would be glad to meet
you - ~~Subsequent~~ ~~obtained~~
has commenced in my eyes
please excuse my scribbling
 kindest regards to Mr. M.
a kiss for the little one
not only from me but Mrs
Care at her request with
Ever truly your friend
W.D. Stebbins

If you desire your name
will be not known in this
discussion
My 85th yr. celebrated by my
lady, Jan. 1. 1873 - 3 weeks ago

Santa Barbara, March 16, '85.

Dear friend Muir:

You may be disappointed to find this old octogenarian plus three again in Cal. It is even so for a short time. I came here in Dec. On my way I called at our old friends Dr. and Mrs. Carr. They have a lovely home -- like themselves. I remained with them one night. When I left she spoke of you and yours, especially the little girl, with much affection. You may wonder why I trouble your eyes with my scribbles. I'll tell you. I met with the Natural History Soc. in Santa Barbara, in which I am an honorary member. At one of its meetings I brought up the subject of Prof. Whitney's Calaveras skull and the opinion I had just received from Prof. Dana of New Haven, doubting the verity of the history as given by the prof. or the miners. It has led to a newspaper discussion on the age of man and the truthfulness of this skull being found where Prof. Whitney has published [that it was] found. I would like to know if you know anything about it? And where can I find Prof. Whitney's statement that the Tuolumne meadows were good grazing lands and already covered with good pasturage. Give me the year of his reports, if you recollect. I recollect your telling me the story when I saw you in Yosemite Valley. If you recollect and can tell me I will be obliged.

My furlough runs out in June next, when I expect to return to Mich. I may be obliged to go to San Francisco. If so I would be glad to meet you. Incipient cataract has commenced in my eyes -- please excuse my scribbling. Kindest regards to Mrs. Muir, and a kiss for the little one not only from me but Mrs. Carr at her earnest wish.

Ever truly your friend,

N. D. Stebbins.

If you desire your name will be not known in this discussion. My 83years celebrated by young ladies from S. B. 3 weeks ago.

GAK
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