



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1888-04-25

Letter from George M. Dawson to John Muir, 1888 Apr 25.

George M. Dawson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

Recommended Citation

Dawson, George M., "Letter from George M. Dawson to John Muir, 1888 Apr 25." (1888). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 1760.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/1760>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY,
Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., L.L.D., F.R.S., Director.
MUSEUM AND OFFICE, SUSSEX ST., OTTAWA.

25 April 1888

Dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for
your articles on Stikine etc from
S.F. newspapers. I am much indebted
for the trouble you have taken in the matter
& shall endeavour to do justice to your
work in so far as it comes within my
province. I send you some with a
number of Science with a short summary
of the geological features of the
country.

Yours truly
George M. Dawson

John Muir &
Wentworth Cal.

01301

reaches within the veil.

you ask about Walter - well he is much about as you saw him. In some points better but scarcely so strong. His local trouble is better controlled than then. I want say cured, for that can never be.

He does a little light office work, but of course is unfitted for anything very active - and with good care may hold out quite a while -

my parents were terribly affected over our misfortune, & poor Mother took to her bed & for a week or two, it seemed as though she would never be up again. She is gaining again however, but both are quite feeble. Of course my own family were badly frightened - for in spite of my efforts to prevent anything of the kind, news by the daily papers came that we were both fatally hurt. My telegrams soon relieved them regarding myself -

Is it not about time you were coming East? When you start we want to know your movements and watch that we may get be at home, when you reach Detroit.

Give kind regards to Mrs. Muir and your sister, Annie, if she is still with you & believe me with best wishes

Yours Sincerely John Gray

P.S. I saw the boat brokers last fall, when their youngest brother Alex. was dying in this city. We had received your letter but why they had not written I do not know. My recollection is that he said he intended to soon -

It is not long since I was talking about you & he was greatly interested & I had to tell him of your illness & of our pleasant journey west you in Cal.



Detroit April 28th 1888

Mr. John Muir
My Dear Friend

Two weeks have past since receipt of your very kind letter of the 8th inst. - Your words of sympathy were gratefully read, and we all wish to thank you for your kind expressions. In our way - that is from our point of view - David's departure, is sad indeed - but for him it was not so. To look forward there was a constant threatening of the "dreaded friend-paralysis" - his own words - a lingering life, in death, of imbecility, and perhaps weakness, of the mental faculties. These he was happily delivered from. Even the pain of parting from all he loved in this life was spared him - that night in the sleeper he was weak and tired

and after I had helped him as our
 would a child, he lay down peacefully
 in the berth, fell quietly asleep, and
 for six hours, each time I looked at
 him in my anxiety for him. he seemed
 to be quietly resting - The crash came
 the rolling cars went down the soft
 Embankment and piled in the ruins
 at the bottom, We were all more
 or less hurt - he struck only very
 slightly on the head - but enough to render
 him unconscious - It was some time before
 we could get unimpaired help enough, to
 get him out, and only a few minutes later
 the car was all in flames so that our
 efforts were burned those not previously
 removed - I thought he would die before
 we got him out - but stimulants brought him
 round a little, but by no sign or word, did
 he ever show a spark of consciousness -
 & for nearly three days, in the hospital - I
 watched beside him, being joined by his wife
 as quickly after as possible - Had he been
 strong and robust as I was he would no
 doubt have recovered - Hemorrhage
 of the brain - the blood vessels of which were
 very weak - brought death and we parted
 from him without a word of bliss -

I was in great anxiety at the thought
 of taking him away in that critical con-

dition he was in - but his physician
 deemed it advisable - All railway
 men who saw the situation said it was
 a wonder anyone escaped from such
 an accident unless killed or mangled -
 so the escape was a closer one than I
 realized at the time for myself -

David had not done much in a lit-
 erary way for several years - but enough
 of his ^{best} prose and poetry is extant to fill
 two volumes - so a committee of his old
 friends thought, and under their direction
 a collection is being made, while a brief
 biography by a Mr. Larned - a fine writer
 will form part of one of the volumes -
 These will not likely be out till the
 end of summer, but I will see that you
 have a copy when published - as they
 will not be put in the market -

For a good while his friends had urged
 him, to allow them to collect & publish one
 volume but of late years his mind was so
 much taken up with matters pertaining
 to the eternal state, that he placed no value
 on them and would give them ~~nothing~~ but
 discouragement - I never knew anyone
 to whom the promises of the future, were
 so real, and so precious, and it was no
 hardship to him to be called away, but as he often
 said "to depart and be with Christ is
 far better" And indeed what else is there
 that has lasting value like the faith that