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**Letter from Benj[amin] I. Wheeler to John Muir, 1903 Mar 21.**

Benjamin I. Wheeler

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Berkeley, March 21, 1903.

My dear Mr. Muir:--

What I telephoned you today I would like to repeat in written form. The opportunity of spending three or four days in the forests of the Yosemite with the President, who is the most enthusiastic lover of nature, I will warrant, you ever met, seems to me a thing which you surely ought not to let fail. I talked with the President some months ago about his outing in California, and he decided that he wanted to have a look at the California forests and uplands, and to have it as a total release from the worries and flurries of official life. (He has concluded that he would like to have you go with him alone.) You might, and probably would, take with you a man to help cook and take care of things. Joseph LeConte is ready to do this if you wish him to. As you know he is quiet and unobtrusive, and would really, while helping you very greatly, be less in the way than any other guide could be. I hope you will not let the trip-round-the-world people deprive you of the pleasure I know you would have, and rob the President of the United States of his cherished plan. I am sure that these people the moment they know they have to will change the arrangements easily. (The President will arrive at Raymond by special train Friday morning, May 15th, and leaves the following Monday night.) We have planned that he with the rest of his company should go on with us to the Big Trees, and at that point you and he should separate yourselves from the company and lose yourselves in the woods, rejoining us the following Monday.

Very faithfully yours,

Mr. John Muir,  
Martinez, California.

*Benj. Ide Wheeler.*

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