



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-04-03

Letter from Geo[rge] Hansen to [John Muir], 1903 Apr 3.

George Hansen

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Designer of...

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC GROUNDS
SQUARES, BOULEVARDS, PARKWAYS
CEMETERIES AND PARK SYSTEMS
DIVISIONS OF SUBURBAN PROPERTY

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"THE ORCHID HYBRIDS"
"WHERE THE BIG TREES GROW"
"WHAT IS A KINDERGARTEN!"
"BABY ROLAND BOOKLETS"

April 3d., 1903.

Distributor of...

EXSICCATE OF THE
"FLORA OF THE SEQUOIA
GIGANTEA REGION"
1500 NUMBERS
REPRESENTED IN
THE HERBARIA AT
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Dear Friend,

It has been many a day since I have had so unexpected and such sincere pleasure as a little item in the paper gave me. It may be silly for me to express such to you. But I am nothing if I cannot follow the instinct of my heart, and I do such now when I tell you about it. When you, alone with our so much admired President go into Yosemite and under the dome of domes, it is to me as if the man was taken by the highpriest into the presence of the most High. It is not only that your guidance of that one man, though he be the chosen of the land, shall be productive of a wonderfull and lasting impression with him. No, to me, it is the touch in the innermost of thousands of men and woman that shall be given through this example. I am a fortunate man for having drawn breath under the shadows of some of those majestic piles of living fibre, and it was with true religiosity that I took up your chapter on the Sequoia and read and read, slowly and piously what God dictated to your pen. I sat in the bright sunshine on our porch, and forgive a human the vain failing that he felt selfishly happy for being called your friend. - I cut out the clipping and pasted it in my book.

Is it not queer how things happen and coincidences

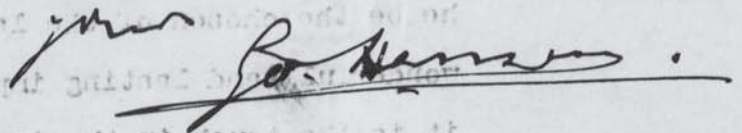
play with us ? - The moment that I wrote the letter to Charles Murdock (though unknown to him) to officiate at my burial , his well beloved wife pressed husband and children for the last time to her warm heart . And now that man of years is left alone with a babe of two years . Wished that his children lived next door to ours . I could help open almonds for them and drawings for them .

And the little birds sing just as sweet today as yesterday , and the little humming jewel flits back and forth before my eyes his bill filled with hair and threads to build his heavenly Haven .

I wish I could listen to one of those concerts of blackbirds that I attended in Concord . When you hear them again , remember how appreciatively a listener I have been .

Wished that the President would be able to withdraw every section from settlement . I think he would if he could .

Sincerely yours



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The " Bell of Hope " from / off the neck of a sturdy billy-goat feeding on the matten below Mont Blanc, and the " Bell of Love " from off her who gave us the first bucket of milk when we set up housekeeping , these two were hoisted in the belfry of ours .

It was the " Bell of Faith " that was lacking , and was yet ringing on the thyme-scented pasture of the little hamlet where I was "farned out" as little boy when things at home didnt go just right .

Bell of Faith , so indeed it was . Did not the little boy look with in faith at everything he then beheld ? And did not those cows walk by faith ? Kind hands opened the gate for them , and as they singly turned down the lanes , they met their shepard at the end of the hamlet . What of it if ^{the} road was dusty , the sun hot , and but cockleburrs along the way ? Faith told them ^{to} their shepard lead them to green pastures besides still waters , and as the eye lost sight of them , the ear caught the music of a heavenly chorus in God's own cathedral .

34 years have passed , and my ear needed attuning to this chorus . I wrote to the postmaster of the hamlet , and he was happy to acquire the Bell of Faith and start it across lands of and oceans to our belfry out here . But he also published the letter of the writer in their county paper to tell the mountaineers of the warmth with which a far-away man thought of childhood days and their hills .

And it so happened that the innkeeper read the letter and besought himself of a bell that had been a keepsake in their herd for all of one hundred years and more . " This is one of the bells of faith that yonder boy listened to , he said to himself , and he took it off his petcow and

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and sent her out with a new bell, saying " go on Betsy, let us part with
our bell, and bless its new owner. " " Bell of hope " " Bell of life " " Bell

And so it comes that our bell has four bells, for deep and rich and
rings out the call of a Vesper Bell. And invisibly to the blind eye there
is written on its worn sides these words

Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, Love
of brethren, be pitifull, be courteous.

Sent with the faith of a
child to our friend
Contra Costa

The Betsy Man