



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-07-22

**Letter from Geo[rge] Hansen to [John Muir and family], 1905 Jul
22.**

George Hansen

GEO. HANSEN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
2705 HEARST AVENUE, BERKELEY, CAL.

ADVISORY ARCHITECT TO PARK COMMISSIONS,
MUNICIPALITIES AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS

July 23d., 1905.

Dear father and mother and sisters,

We let the child go on with his cheery play while we bend, the hearts throbbing, over the morning-news that tells of the affliction in your home. "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps", and from the desert you have returned to fan coolness to the heated temple of the one that stayed "home": stayed home and kept home, home for your bodies under roof and at table, and home for your souls in benediction and prayer.

It is but few nights since when I sat up in the balmy evening hours and watched the stars that man was sending skyward in bright array. Ah, glorious as they rose, they fell short of the eternally lighted ones up there in His firmament. You were seeing those stars, your mother was seeing them, and we were seeing them. Perchance you thought of us, as I thought of all of you, and we enjoyed the at-onement of Mind. I tell you how you were brought so close to me, that I could call the good wife and tell her "Mother, I smell Alhambra Valley". It was for the first time that the heat of the valley had freed the oils of gladness that the weeds of the fields, the Lillies, had accumulated for their annual offering, and so great was the wave of frankincense that it overflowed to me at the base of the holy hill.

Gratefully have I, have we, taken in the sweet smelling savour, and it is for us today, to bring back manifold, the good that was extended to us. And how shall it be? It is said that voice shall be

be given to man when the time is come to open his lips . But let a
greater singer voice our sympathy today , and speak to you in strength
and banish fear and trembling , and give to you the peace that is past
understanding .

" Commune with your own heart upon your bed , and be
still
Offer the sacrifices of righteousness , and put your
trust in the Lord
There may be many that say , " who will show us any
good ? Lord , lift thou up the light of thy
countenance upon us .

Thou hast put gladness in my heart , more than in
the time that their corn and their wine increased .
I will both lay me down in peace and sleep :
for thou , Lord , only makest me dwell in safety .

Robert, via J. H.

could call the good wife and tell her " Mother , I smell
" Valley " . It was for the first time that the head of the valley had
reed the old of gladness that the weeds of the fields , the lilies
had so longed for their annual offering , and so great was the wave
of thanksgiving that it overflowed to me as the base of the holy hill .
Greatly have I , have we taken in the sweet smelling savour .
and it is the day , to bring back mankind the good that was ex-
tended to us .