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Letter from Cha[rle]s F. Lummis to [John Muir], 1907 Aug 26.

Charles F. Lummis

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Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 26, 1907.

Dear Jeremiah:-

Nothing pleases me more than your occasional lapses to common sense and expression. Your letter came just at an unpropitious time, when my old minstrel had to kill my handsome Indian lad in self defense---for which the coroner's jury has to-night acquitted him. But I was glad to have it from you; because when you do write it seems to be in your lucid intervals. The only time I have any fault to find with you is in the long periods when you try to imitate a clam.

I am too overworked to make any promises ---for by the time I have five men's jobs safely discharged, somebody is sure to drop on my shoulders a load something like that of the last five days. But if God is good to me, I will try to take up

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your Hetch Hetchy matter. You are dead right; and it is time to fight against these iniquities.

I saw Garfield down here---as I also saw him in Washington in June in some rather warm discussions as to scientific exploration. He is sane and sound in our case, and I think will be in the matter you bring up. I will try to send him a communication direct; but if I can get it in editorial type in the magazine, it will be all the better.

With the love of all my house to all of yours,

Always,

Your Friend,

Chas. F. Johnson

I am grateful and proud of your opinion of my Sidwinder; I don't believe I call him any bad names. Myself, I love the dignity and the competency of the rattlesnake of any sort. He has the power of life and death in his mouth; and if he

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were a civilized gossip, there are enough rattlesnakes in California to kill all the inhabitants of the United States. Unfortunately he has never gone in the newspaper business; and never bites those who don't trespass upon him.

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