



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1913-07-19

**Letter from R. B. Marshal to John Muir, 1913 Jul 19.**

R. B. Marshal

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Personal

Washington, D. C.,  
July 19, 1913.

Mr. John Muir,  
Martinez, California.

My dear Mr. Muir:

Mrs. Marshall has just written of the great joy you gave them all by your visit to Inverness -- her only complaint was that you could not stay longer. I know full well the genuine pleasure you gave all, and especially the three Marshall girls who love and admire you to the full measure of their lovable selves. I envied them to the limit -- I was lonesome. John Muir is mine; for with all of his numerous friends and admirers, I am positive no one in the world has or ever will feel the same deep bond of sympathetic affection for you that I do.

With this absolutely honest statement, you can imagine my feeling of pain when Mrs. Marshall informed me that you even for a moment questioned my loyalty regarding the Hetch Hetchy matter. I did not appear before the Committee. I have taken no action whatever, for to do so would, no doubt, cost me my position, which I can't afford to give up; I must

05497

John Muir -- 2.

control my feelings and actions for the sake of my three girls. If I could afford to do so, I would give up my position and fight to retain Hetch Hetchy Valley as a park to an extent that would startle even you, and I honestly believe I would win, but as I said above my mouth is gagged under present conditions.

Therefore, for all time, please know that Marshall will stand fire now and forever; he is honored by being on the side with his good friend Muir, and even if Muir himself should agree to destroy the wonderfully beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley by creating a lake for supplying power to San Francisco, Marshall would cross swords with him, his dearest friend, and would fight to the last ounce of his ability. Can I state my position stronger or clearer?

This letter is personal to you, Mr. Muir, and I ask you, please, to never again suspect my loyalty to the cause, no matter how or from whom you may get your information.

I regret more than I can say that I can not, for financial reasons, remove the gag that my official position compels me to respect. It is one of the greatest trials I have had in life to keep still when the battle is on; under cover of

05497

John Muir -- 3.

darkness when if the enemy were forced into the light they would be routed for all time by the first charge.

Again assuring you of my utmost loyalty and desire to save Hetch Hetchy Valley as nature gave it to us, and of my love and respect for you, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

*M. Marshall*

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