



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1902-01-07

Letter from C. Hart Merriam to John Muir, 1902 Jan 7.

C. Hart Merriam

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Sometime before Spring we shall have the pleasure of welcoming at least a large share of the Muir family at 1919 - 16 St., I remain, with kindest regards to you all,

Esam
E. Hart Merriam

John Muir
Martinez, Calif.

Washington
Jan. 7, 1902

My dear Mr. Muir:

Yesterday the expressman brought to the Department of Agriculture a great California Santa Claus load for the Merriam-Sailey tribe, with a strong smell of Martinez surrounding it like a glorious halo. But as neither of us drink our wine or eat our nuts & raisins at the Department, we had to curb our appetites until we could pack the sacks and horse the 2 1/2 miles to our houses. Then there was great rejoicing in the land and the voice of festive Merriams of various ages and assorted sizes might have been heard by the hungry multitude outside. It would do your dry bones good to hear the children praise the Muir nuts & raisins. No one can ever make them believe that any others are half so good - and the old folks are inclined to agree with them.

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Last week we had the biggest flood of scientific men ever known. No less than 21 scientific societies met here between Christmas and New Year, and the register shows that about 1350 persons came to the meetings. Many stayed to look around & see the sights, and some to do a little work, after the meeting, so we are hardly yet recovered.

Tomorrow I go to New York and Brooklyn to lecture, as "every little helps".

Dr. Jordan was here yesterday.

Have had hard luck with photographs since my return, not having found anyone who will make good prints. Am just trying 2 new men and hope for better results. As soon as I get a man who will do good work I will have your prints made.

Please tell Helen me all are anxious to know which story she likes best and which she thinks funniest. The Merriam family is divided into 3 or 4 factions on this momentous question.

My eldest boy, John C. Merriam of Berkeley,

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has been here some time studying his California cave bones in comparison with specimens in our collection. About half are indistinguishable from living species (rabbits, foxes, bobcats, woodrats &c) while among the others are types as different as Mastodons & Arctotheriums - and all from the same cave!

We hope that Mrs. Muir has shaken off the last of her rheumatism, that Helen is not growing thin over the severity of her professor, that Wanda has abstained from falling in love with "the philosopher", and that the serene dignity of the head of the Muir family will never again be led so far astray as to review another book.

With loves of thank from all the way up & down the Merriam family for the 'interior decorations' from California, and with continued deferred hopes that