



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1909-09-02

Letter from J[oseph] C. Pickard to John Muir, 1909 Sep 2.

Joseph C. Pickard

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Maywood Ills. 2 Sept. 1909

Dr. John Muir

Martinez, California

My dear Friend.

I have read with great pleasure your "Stanzas". I find the same few facts alike in narration + description, and the same genial soul that "looveth not
"All things both great and small."

I can but recall the day you came to me with wooden clocks & asked a place for them. Wooden-working clocks regulating so much of labor as student & teacher! I trust you have them still in place of honor.

A few years ago I was in Edinburgh I went in to the Cemetery at foot of Calton Hill, to see the bronze figure of Lincolnton & the tomb of Herne. I found near those a monument to 3 or 4 martyrs (banished for love of their fellowmen. I copied inscriptions - remarks made at their trial. One read as follows: "I have devoted myself to the

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cause of the people. It is a good cause. It shall ultimately prevail. It shall ultimately triumph." "Thomas Meir in court of Judiciary. Aug. 30. 1793" - This cause did ultimately triumph & the people erected the monument. You must know the spot & its memory, as I believe your early life was not far away. - I have thought you must of that noble deed, for in you is somewhat of that heroic grandeur.

I wish you might meet my brother J. L. who lives in Liverpool (85 years of age) & has grandson in San Francisco. Perhaps you remember Henry Butler - my son Charles is boys about the University. Henry is a lawyer in Superior, & Charles a lawyer in Berkeley. Charles spent a week or two this summer with his invalid wife in the Yosemite. I hoped he would find you. Both boys are successful in their profession.

Very cordially yours
J. C. Rickard

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P.S. Ninety years ago my wife's grandfather James Storer & his son published Illustrations of Edinburgh with a history of the city. One of the engravings is of the old Tolbooth. I found a copy in a second-hand bookstore, & brought it away with me, paying \$2.25 for it. A rare work now. Mr. Storer was a distinguished delineator & engraver in London. - In the description of Home's monument is given a suggested epitaph, which you may not have seen. I copy it.

"Within this circular idea,
"Vulgarily called a tomb -
"Rest the impressions & ideas
"That constituted Home."

Memory Feb

I quote from