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1894-08-29

Letter from J. E. Mathewson to John Muir, 1894 Aug 29.

J. E. Mathewson

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a trade the tast gave of my denness of any statement as a card as TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS-"PATENBELLE, SHEFFIELD" MAINTING ASTINGS. FROSTING MARKING, PERFORATING AND DECORATING GLASS. MARY MARKING, PERFORATING AND DECORATING GLASS. MARY MARKING, PERFORMATING AND DECORATING GLASS. MARKING, PERFORMATING AND DECORATING GLASS. MARKING, PERFORMATING MARKIN Sear Sir In looking our a volume of last years Century maya I came upon an article headers John min and undernet to manne was his portrait, I remarked to myself "Why that books vary Main, " hestily running over the article I found to my actoristicat That my conjecture wats time. I do not know at the gon with himethiber one or not, but I have a most distinct ricolciction of you & those wooden clocks and othis ingenious contrivances designed to short or fitch heavy sleepers out of the at any hour a minute of The morning whether they would a ris I thing is that first that we used to room together, two and not clien upon this point; I remember will however that we were great friends, both bridg of an invention tang of mind + in sumilar cir cumstandet fin anerally my for mother, Who died two years sinn, keps are my littles wither from the minwenter the are now in my possision. he two of the letters & mention for the the blocks. Have often wondered what has become of you & and now glad to know that you are still in the hand of living & have a manne white will live, We both attended The mivereity with money carned by direity therefore was not spirit in riotous living by my means thrac + will was my staple food during my two years Then. We have both been hard workers although your path has been the most sugged, However hard worth and perserver nearly always meets with it's reward, which the cum has lots. I read with the diepers interest the short account of your labors in the interists of Vaincer of your have published a ule account of you travels. wwork, I wones be glad to know when it can be bargh. Perhaps you would like to Know what I have been up to for the last Thirty had or thirty three years + why it is that I am writing in This for off Country. Well, after having the university I returned home + want to work in a steam saw mill where I have formaly been orimanic Some eight or ten months, when I started East with the intention of going to a school at Troy. A.Y. On the way, however, I made a sins to an Much in Maderon G. My While Then I caught The war fever -formed (with Fur of my cousins) Hattery A. 12. A. J. Luits articley. Heat through my three years service & came out without a scratch wither on my character 01841

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or body. How the last year of my service I was stationed, as a click, at the head quarters of the Dept of Pine at Phile. Taking a liking to Phile & returned there after being discharge at the end of the war, and 1865. I som format work as an Endnuer at The Office of the "thile Suguries" tremanice There come the orfain years Mr Harding the proprietor wishing to help me on recommender one to B. Coll & tight at to carry out some ferthering to the he was also interested, in the manufacture of boord pulp for Refer making. The informants turned out an successful & I was placed in this suferimental haber aton where I had by firmer in chemisty as well as engineering. the 1570. The idea of using sand driver with great vetweet by air steam to, to cut hard substance, was suggester by B.C. Filshman, I assisted him in Carrying out the cy formator & afterwards pufficing it to practice uses. Into 1877. They sent me to sugland to introduce the product to main patienes, Irwas another taken when a bound to introduce the product to main patienes. quickly taken up + a company formed to work it I was, of come, to practical have in the business, but was bus to any means at the hear of affairs. After two or three grans, powerer matters forme this livel & came if to the side as humaning Director & have remained in this position wer since? An now fifty thru years of age & any that thearty as when a young ender, I arrange of Mila delphia + have two apildres - a daughter Lettie, tom in Phile in 1870 + a son Alfred, born in Condon in 1975 who is now my right have more in the mission is, The drughter has fine Emissical abilities - her favorite instrument bring the bilolin. The offen plays violi solos at concerts sis conscience to have the bilolin. The offen plays violi solos at concerts sis conscience to best player in thefpied a city of 300.000 people) the time time in Realing game for over a year having the finishing touches give her in violin playing . I The traced in Constan highs years have been in Shippies thaten years. I have a good dise on bacines, all over Singland Alerthand the Continent, I hope hepore tong to take a fourney to India - austrialia. How hun buch to the Statys several times + and making arramanent and these hun buch to the Statys several times + and making arramanent and the go again a the 22 2 of Signa Jan sending you h this post a Catalogue to go again a the 22 2 of Signa Jan sending you h this post a Catalogue Same plant a prainting made by us, this will gue go an idea of what The Sand black is I gow are not already protein it, also send my photo, for might riply to care of the Ber A. Tilghman 1116 South 11 de St. Phile Ra as then will be hartly time for your letter to made me before starting for Have you win the took visited your native country destand the statis has grich attractions for Americano. If you wanted come win you much not find to visit one. Yours early Mathewson. the un harde in treaden and they hetrice then I have be to have prease - I formed the the the the server a part the server of the then a set by an in the server the then a to be the formed the server a server a set of the server of the server a server a server a set of the server a they there gears I can be a more out with white a decator of the summing the

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Sheffield, [England].

Aug. 29, 1894.

Dear Sir:

In looking over a volume of last year's"Century" Magazine I came upon an article headed John Muir, and underneath the name was his portrait. I remarked to myself, Why that looks very much like my old schoolmate at the Wisconsin State University, John Muir. And hastily running over the article I found to my astonishment that my conjecture was true. I do not know whether you will rememver me or not, but I have a most distinct recollection of you and those wooden clocks and other ingenious contrivances designed to shoot or pitch heavy sleepers out of bed at any hour or minute in the morning, whether they would or no. I thought at first that we used to room together, but am not clear upon this point. I remember well, however, that we were great friends, both being of an inventive turn of mind and in similar circumstances financially. My poor mother, who died two years since, kept all my letters written from the University, and they are now in my possession. In two of the letters I mention you and the clocks. Have often wondered what had become of you and am now glad to know that you are still in the land of living and have a name which will live. We both attended the University with money earned by ourselves, and therefore was not spent in riotous living by any means. Bread and milk was my staple food during my two years there. We have both been hard workers, although your path has been the most rugged. However, hard work and perseverance nearly always meet with their reward, which it seems has our lots.

I read with the deepest interest the short account of your labors in the interest of Science. If you have published a full account of your travels and work, I would be glad to know where it can be bought.

Perhaps you would like to know what I have been up to for the last thirty-two or thirty-three years, and why it is that I am writing in this far off country. Well, after leaving the University I returned home and wont to work in a steam sawmill where I had formerly been. Remained some eight or ten months, when I started east with the intention of going to a school at Troy, N.Y. On the way, however, I made a visit to an uncle in Madison Co., N.Y. While there I caught the war fever and joined (with two of my cousins) Battery A. 1st N.Y.Light Artillery. Went through my three years' service and came out without a scratch either on my character or body. For the last year of my service I was stationed, as a clerk, at the headquarters of the Dept. of Penn. at Phila. Taking a liking to Phila. I returned there after being discharged at the end of the war, Aug. 1865. I soon found work as an engineer at the office of the "Phila. Enquirer," and remained there some three or four years. Mr. Harding, the proprietor, wishing to help me on, recommended me to B.C. &R.A. Dilghman to carry out some experiments, in which he was also interested in the manufacture of wood pulp for paper making. The experiments turned out unsuccessful, and I was placed in their experimental laboratory, where I had valuable experience in chemistry as well as engineering. In 1870, the idea of using sand driven with great velocity by air steam, etc. to cut hard substances, was suggested by B.C. Tilghman. I assisted him in carrying out the experiments and afterwards putting it to practical uses. In 1873 they sent me to England to introduce the sand blast process to manufacturers. It was quickly taken up and a company formed to work it. I was, of course, the practical man in the business, but was not by any means at the head of affairs. After two or three years, however, matters found their level and I came up to the head as Managing Director, and have remained in that position ever since, Am now fifty-three years of age, and am as hale and hearty as when a young man. I married in Philadelphia and have two children, a daughter Lottie, born in Phila. in 1870 and a son, Alfred, born in London in 1875, who is now my right hand man in the business. My daughter has fine musical abilities - her favor-ite instrument being the violin. She often plays violin solos at concerts and is considered the best player in Sheffield (a city of 350.000 people). She was in Berlin, Germany, for over a year having the finishing touches given her in violin playing. We livedin London eight years and have been in Sheffield thirteen years. I travel a good deal, on business, all over England and Scotland, and the continent, and hope before long to take a journey to India and Australia. Have been back to the States several times and am making arrangements now to go again on the 22nd of Sept. I am sending you by this post a catalogue of sand blast apparatus made by us. This will give you an idea of

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[Letter of J. E. Mathewson, Aug. 29, 1894, to John Muir, continued]

what the sand blast is, if you are not already posted up. Also send my photo. You might reply to care of B.C. & R. A. Tilghman, 1116 South 11th St., Phila., Pa. as there will be hardly time for your letter to reach me before starting for the States.

Have you ever visited your native country? Scotland has great attractions for Americans. If you should come over you must not fail to visit me.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. Mathewson

John Muir, Esq., California, U.S.A.

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