



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1894-12-08

## Letter from Henry T. Finck to John Muir, 1894 Dec 8.

Henry T. Finck

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John Muir Esq

Dear Sir

When Mr. Garrison,

a few weeks ago, gave me your new book on the Mountains of California to review for the Nation and Evening Post, my eyes actually filled with tears as I read the chapter headings — so delightful were the memories & the expectations of literary delight called up by them. I enclose my imperfect review, which, however, will help to show you that I am almost as great a Sierra enthusiast as you are, although I have been only once at Tahoe & twice at the Yosemite, my experience being recorded in ~~the~~ "The Pacific Coast Scenic Tour", which you may have seen possibly.

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I wrote to her, R.M. Johnson the other day that your book made me wish to be changed by some fairy to a Douglas squirrel, <sup>that I might</sup> spend all the rest of my life on Sierra tree tops. — I am a musical critic, & I will add to what I said in my review that no writer has ever analyzed the music of nature with such deep insight as you have.

I have been wondering whether it would be possible for myself & wife (a fairly strong young woman) to make a trip, <sup>some</sup> summer, from Lake Tahoe <sup>direct</sup> to the Yosemite, & it is this that leads me to write to you. Could it be done, with a mule to carry provisions, so that we could spend plenty of time on the way? I am afraid not, but I would like to get your advice, if you will be so kind as to give it. If that is impossible (I suppose, too, we would need a guide), what alternative would you suggest, as the wisest

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way of spending a summer in the Sierras?

I do not know if you are as practical as you are poetic & scientific, but if you are, could you suggest any way of keeping my Pacific Coast book before the eyes of tourists? It covers the whole Coast from San Diego to Sitka, & is just what the average tourist wants, yet for the last two years the sale of the book has been abominably small. I know there are thousands who would want the book if they knew just what it contains, but how make it known to them?

With many apologies for thus trespassing on your time & good nature, I am

Very sincerely yours  
Henry J. Finck

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