

Alexandria, Oct. 19th 1847

Dear Sir,

Yrs of the 12th reached me yesterday. I had intended writing with the package, but was prevented. I am glad that you confirm most of my plants.

The *Urtica*, I am now satisfied, is nothing but *U. Canadensis*, & am ashamed for being misled by a friend of mine. In future I will be more careful & depend more on my own judgment.

Was not the plant, named by you *Solidago bicolor*, *β. cancolor*, that plant? In my last parcel I had meant to send some large specimens, but may have put in by mistake, *S. speciosa*, *β. angustata*. Surely the first cannot be *S. speciosa*, *β. angustata*!

The *Cernonia ovalifolia*, T. & G., is common around Monticello, Gasper Co., Ga.

It gives me much pleasure that the *Helianthoid* plant from Rock Mountain proves to be "entirely new". I was certain that it could not be *Helianthus angustifolius*. It covers every spot of ground on the mountain above a certain line.

Its height is 2 ft. It appears in dense masses, & the corymbose inflorescence gives it a very gay appearance. The root has a strong balsamic odor. Though in full bloom, when I was there ~~on~~ Aug 20th 1846, it was only after a long search that I gathered a few heads with fruit partially formed. Some of the achenia you will find enclosed. I could detect no pappus. The ' I examined it carefully in the fresh state. This & the navicular chaff led me to think that it might be a *Rudbeckia*.

Rock Mountain is a singular natural curiosity, a solitary mountain of solid granite 1500 ft high & 6 miles in circuit, lying 10 miles East of Decatur, De Kalb Co, & 1/2 a mile from the Georgia Central Railroad, which runs from Augusta to Atlanta, & is a place of much resort in summer. This makes me wonder that no botanist has hitherto noticed this plant.

I have nothing new to report in this region, but *Polemonium dubium* Willd., Mifflin Co. I believe I told you that *Valeriana pauciflora*, Ell. was discovered in this neighborhood. I have a single specimen in my herbarium. Among the grasses I have seen nothing strange but have some puzzling *Carexes*. Dr Green of Mercersburg has, I suppose, sent you *Carex Shertii* from that place. Are his *Rhamni* distinct species? Please inform me how soon you expect your Manual to be out, & also if



Porter, Thomas C. 1847. "Porter, Thomas C. Oct. 19, 1847." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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