

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to have the leaves, flowers, and fruit; and, in the case of bulbous plants, the bulbs, also. When they are sent from a distance it is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When the dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed between pieces of stiff pasteboard. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per ounce. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where collected, the date, and any other particulars of the plant, whether reputed poisonous, pestiferous, medicinal, or useful.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF BOTANY,

Washington, D. C., Nov 21st 1888.

Mr. Lorenzo Watson

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 19th inst. is at hand. You enquire about certain plants of Dr. Palmer's California Collection "which he sent me" - The plants were sent from the Department of Agriculture and not from Dr. Palmer. We took all his collection, except 5 sets. The Collection was a small one - less than 250 species - many only in single specimens. I sent you specimens of all that I thought would be particularly interesting to you, ~~you~~ asking you to name such as were new. The *Collinsia* about which you enquire is in the Collection, and I called it *C. Torreyi*. Probably if it had shown good flowers I should have detected a difference. It is in nearly all the specimens (of which I send you some to day) past flowering. In the other features of the plant it seems hardly distinguishable from *C. Torreyi*. The 5 sets to which I alluded are taken by ^{J.D.} Mr. Smith, Canby, Greene, Britton &c, and number about 200 species. The common things I thought you would not care for. As to the localities for the other numbers; of No 168 Dr. Palmer notes - "grows on the lower parts of slopes and ridges, very scattering



Vasey, George. 1888. "Vasey, George Nov. 21, 1888 [to S. Watson]." *George Vasey letters to Asa Gray*

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