

Arrived 20 April Hillsborough, N.C. April 5. 1842

Dear Sir,

"I now take my pen in hand to inform you", that I have put a little parcel of plants which I promised you, into a box containing some packages for Buckley, & directed to him, care of Torrey. The box will go to Petersburg in a few days, & be shipped to N. York. You can open the box & get your plants. I was much disappointed in not being able to send your parcel by a Merchant from this place, but he left a full week earlier than he appointed, & when I went to arrange matters with him, lo! he was gone!

I saw a letter from N. York yesterday stating that a call had been made at Wiley & Putnam's for a package for me, but could find nothing. A promise was made to call again. — Now, if it has not been sent with the goods for our merchants here, will you do me the favor to ship it, as quick as you can, to Petersburg, care of J. G. McPheeters.

Your Carol: Excursion pleases the folks at our University very much. Pres^t. Swain has requested me to copy it for our newspaper here, believing that it will "be copied thence into our other papers & read with interest". I have undertaken the job, & will send you the parts as they come out. In order to render it popular, I am obliged to leave out all the techni-

calities, where I cannot get corresponding English, & thus you will find that I have taken pretty severe liberties with your article. The part relating to your own visit, I find I shall have to cut down to almost nothing.

I do not know yet where Buckley is. When I hear from him, I will comply with your request, saving only that portion which concerns Sir William. Hooker & I do not speak, as the boys say. He must henceforth look elsewhere for aid than to me, until I get an assurance that he has never made any use of the plants I sent him.

On p. 33. of your Carol. Excursion, the character which you quote from Haworth, of his *Robertsonia micranthopifolia* must certainly be drawn from our *Saxifraga leucanthemifolia*. Now, did not Haworth, seeing or supposing that our plant was different from *S. blusii* & its varieties, unguardedly take it for *S. erosa*? - The latter he certainly had not in view in his description, unless in an abnormal state.

I have rec^d another sheet of proof from your Flora, containing a portion of *Helianthus* &c. In looking at your *H. laevigatus*, it occurred to me that I had the plant. Your account of the leaves however does not correspond with my plant, since they are as narrow as those of *H. Schweinitzii*. But with this exception, your character holds good. Now let us see, if we cannot determine whether your specimen came from me. I sent one to Torrey, marked "*Helianthus* (1.)", which I collected in Lincoln Co. N. C. - Well, besides, if you cannot find any label so marked, you may take it for

half granted, that *H. laevigatus* is from me. Besides ~~this~~, I have sent to Torrey *H.* (1), (3), (4), (5), (a+), (b), (c), (d), (aa+), *angustifolius*, & *hirsutus*. For (b), (c), (d), (1), (3), (4), (5), & *hirsutus*, you have accounted to me in late letters; the *angustifolius* may be put out of the question. Now there remain only (a+), (aa+) & (1.) unaccounted for. As the two first are marked to be returned, I suppose you can tell what they are. ~~Then only~~ *H.* (1) remains, which, as you have not noticed it, & it is a new species if not *H. laevigatus*, I have come to the conclusion that the label is lost, or you would certainly have reported on it, & that it is truly your *H. laevigatus*. Your specimen may have broader leaves than mine, from a lower part of the stem.

I wish you would look into this matter, & let me know about it. I would send a specimen if I had a spare one, & settle the question at once. After all I have very little doubt about it. When I get N^o 6, & am prepared to work over the whole genus, then I will settle the matter by book.

I am getting impatient about N^o 6. Why does it not come on, as you finished the last proof as long ago as the 19th ult.?

Apr. 8th. The parcels of plants have left for Petersburg, & so you may expect yours in the course of a fortnight. It is of little value, but I hope you will find something worth the having. With this letter I send a Newspaper containing first part of Carol. Excursion. This is nearly entire; the subsequent parts will be much mutilated.

* I find that this (a+) was returned by Torrey several years since; & is a broad-leaved form of *H. angustifolius* (or the *laevigatus* not revolute).

Give my respects to Torrey & Carey. What has become of
my old friend Alonzo Clark? —

very truly your friend.

M. A. Curtis.

~~PAID~~

PAID



Dr. Asa Gray

New York
N.Y.





Curtis, M. A. 1842. "Curtis, Moses A. Apr. 5, 1842." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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