

Recd
Jan 23, 1

Hillsborough, Nov: 18th 1842

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 3^d inst: awaited me on the 16th, as I returned from Newbern. I now write to inform you that I took a small box of plants to Newbern for you, which was left there to be shipped, & which I hope is in N.Y. by this time. The parcel of *Carex Traseriana* together with about twenty other species of plants composes the fasciculus. Among the latter I hope you will find something to interest you. *Baptisia mollis* (vera) is among them in fl. & fr. by which you will at once see that there is no mistake in my former representation. I have also sent a *Scirpus Mitchellii*, & *Fothergilla Hunteriana* (n. spp.?) upon which I desire your opinion.

On my journey to & from Newbern I passed many of my old acquaintances which I was very anxious to obtain. I saw several that you want, ~~but~~ *Aster Elliottii*, *Baptisia villosa*, *Liatis resinosa*, *bellidifolia*, *Archemora ternata*, &c. &c: but I was not prepared to get anything. I only picked up some fine legumes of *Bapt: villosa*, & some acorns of *Quercus Catesboei*, of which I can send you a few, if you want them.

I have sent an article to Silliman some weeks ago, begging him to insert it in his next No. It contains descriptions of *Thermopsis caroliniana*; *T. fraxinifolia*; *Baptisia mollis*; *Lindernia spicata*; *Hypericum Buckleyi*; *Helianthus Dowellianus*; *Carex Mitchelliana* (*C. kentolepis*, Mbp. in your hands); *C. glaucescens*, *Pandogyna*; *Juncus cylindricus*; *Muhl. enbergia filipes*; & perhaps one or two more*. I have no copy, & do not now remember its entire contents. It was written hastily soon after Buckley left me, with the intention of securing an early chance for the January number of the Journal, so as to get ahead of Regel's correspondents. But for this, I should have trusted my Mbp. to you, instead of publishing, & thereby avoided multiplying some synonymes perhaps. My *Baccharium ursinum* cannot be *B. glaucum*, I think. Michaux says corol globose, which is far from my plant. And he would hardly have called the fruit edible, though it can be eaten. I am very confident about this plant. I am sorry you did not see the *Helianth. Dowell.* Buckley had^d I suspect, in his large collection sent round by Charleston, though it was not in the parcel which he had with him. My friend, from whom it is named, sent me a leaf of the real thing last summer, & I requested him to collect a parcel for me. From him Buckley got one or more, I think. — If Buckley's *Helleborus* — (I took the name from him) proves to be *Hydrastis canad.*, I shall be much surprised. I did not examine the plant, & I never saw a *Helleborus*, but it never occurred to me to be like *Hydrastis*.
* *Baccharium ursinum*.

If you saw good specimens in flower of *Thermopsis fraxinifolia* in Buckley's collection, which, with the specimen in fruit which you have from me, will give you a full idea of the plant. The *Bapt. mollis*, in the parcel now on the way, will settle the whole difficulty. In my article for Silliman I have assumed that Schweinitz specimen in Herb. Acad. is the true *B. mollis*, & in that way account for some points in Torr. & Gray's description, which do not exactly quadrate with *Thermopsis fraxin.*, but which accord well with Michaux's plant. I think that I have so characterized them, as to leave no further doubt. The *T. fraxin.* is wholly confined to the Mid.; The *B. mollis* is wholly confined to the middle country; as far as any past observation extends. — I got Buckley to furnish a friend with a couple of roots of *Therm. Carol.* which I shall look for this fall. If I can get the thing in cultivation you shall have some of it.

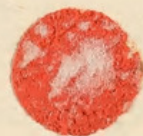
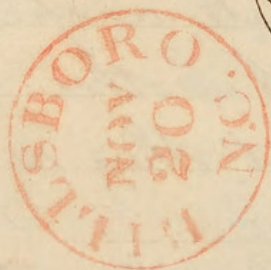
You may pay \$5.00 to Wiley & Putnam, subject to my order. — I have this day sent \$10.00 to L. Moody, for the *Carex*. He has made quite a speculation for a man in his circumstances. A brother clergyman direct from his house says that they remember your visit there with great pleasure.

Your Text Book was received, & has been partly read with high satisfaction. — *Flenth. Enum.* III. I have got, but it is of little use to me. The American species I should say are not well worked up. *Juncus* is very unsatisfactory. — Whatever you may have to send me, deposit with Turner & Hughes, N. York. You promised me a *Carex sullivanii* last year!

I am glad if Hooker is to send me some plants, but I am afraid that it is too late for his benefit. If he had acknowledged my plants in season, it would have been in my power & will to have served him handsomely. Why does not Tuckerman drop us a line?

25-

Prof: Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.



I intended to avail myself of your opinion in regard to several plants comprised in my article in Silliman's Jour., but it is now too late, & they must take their chance. If, however, it is in your power to secure the admission of the paper, I wish you would use it. If in the list above given there are any species which you know to be founded on old & known plants you are at liberty to have them erased from the article.

With high regard - M. A. Curtis



Curtis, M. A. 1842. "Curtis, Moses A. Nov. 18, 1842." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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