

Answered

I think birds has not yet had Society Hill, S. C. Sept. 22/54
of the right thing, if I remember; I have seen this, R. Gibberii -
but have no specimen. Tell me about it, when you return this
letter

My Dear Sir,

Yesterday I returned from the Black Mt., S. C.
I left home on the 4th to escape the intolerable heat of this region, but
found no alleviation until I had passed Greenville, S. C. All parts of the
country seem to have had a degree of heat the past summer beyond all pre-
cedent. It was a relief to get into a temperature on Blk. Mt. where the mer-
cury ranged from 62° to 69 during my stay. And now when I reach home
it is just the same temperature here, the therm° to-day ranging from 60°-70°.
I had one of my sons with me, who thus for the first time saw a mountain.

There is now a house of entertainment near the summit, about a mile &
a half from Mitchell's peak. A hack runs weekly from Asheville to the
foot of the mt., from whence people ascend on horseback to the tip top.

Unfortunately I had rainy weather, so that I harvested but little; & on
my return to Asheville I found a letter recalling me home on account of
the dangerous illness of two of my daughters. Thank God, I find them in a fair
way of recovery. I had intended spending some days in the Hickory Nut Gap,
& had also thought of a run to Casar's Head &c. - As you may suppose, there has
been some disappointment in this interruption of my plans; but doubtless it is all
for the best. I brought home but a small stock of novelties. My son got a skin of
the "Common Cross Bill" which was common on the Black in the Fir region. This was
a novelty to us. But I have a more interesting piece of news than this. I have
been hearing for a year or more of a new *Rhus* found by Prof. Gibbs in Bun-
combe, & one of the first things Dr. Hardy had to talk about at Asheville was the
Rhus Gibberii of Torrey. The original discoverer is Dr. Foster who has a sum-
mer residence near A. & whose acquaintance I made. From him I obtained all
necessary information for obtaining the thing it being abundant all about the

Blk. Mt. House. And now to spoil a pleasant theory - I could but laugh heartily when I found *R. gibberii* to be *Pyrenopeziza microcarpa* D.C. - I suppose Dr. Toney never saw anything but the leaves.

Sept. 23rd - Thermometer this morning at 57°. This is as extreme for the season as was the heat during summer.

I am indebted to you for some unacknowledged sheets - "New Genera" & "Bibliography." Thanks. I am always glad to see these things.

Have you heard any thing special from Wright since his arrival in the Northern & Eastern parts of the earth? I hope he will do something in my way. He got some beautiful things for me in Texas. The tropical parts of this continent must be a mycological paradise. I wish we could get an adventurer into those regions, who would collect diligently. I have bought a small but "splendid collection" (fide Berkeley) made by Spruce on the Amazon, "almost everything new." - How covetous we become of novelties. Here at home I have found enough to satisfy a reasonable ambition. Wonder if they will ever be published!

Probably I should not have written you at present, but for my trip to the mountains. I have little to report, but it seemed very natural to inform you that I had been in a favorite region, which you would yourself much like to enjoy again.

Believe me
very cordially yours

Wm. A. Curtis.

The trunk has not come

yet!



Curtis, M. A. 1854. "Curtis, Moses A. Sept. 22, 1854." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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