

Columbus June 26th 83.

Prof. Sereno Watson

My dear Sir.

The offer made in your kind letter of reviewing part of the ~~most~~ of the Manual of the mosses imposed upon yourself such an amount of hard work and such a great loss of time that I scarcely dare to accept it, though I greatly feel the ~~need~~ ^{need} of your assistance. Would you not enter into some kind of arrangement and accept some compensation, if not for the value of your work, at least for the loss of your time? -

The manuscript of the Sphagnaceae was written long time ago and has been more than two years with Mr. Jarne who had the work of Braithwaite. I read ^{the ms.} ~~it~~ however when it was returned to me long time after the death of Mr. Jarne and merely modified some of the quotations from that same work of Braithwaite which had been lent to me by Mrs. Jarne. I admit the fitness of your observation in regard to the authorities of species or varieties from a discussion on the subject with Prof. Gray who ~~had~~ ^{was} the trouble to put me right on the subject,

I have reviewed and modified all the quotations from the beginning of the *Hyacinth* and believe that you will not find any more errors of the same nature. I have also generally followed your mode of arranging the quotations in the foot and reduced their number perhaps too much. The synonymy is of little use for a Manual. I have therefore generally quoted the author of the species and the work where the species has been illustrated for the first. Braithwaite's work is certainly very good. But for the figures and the details of the description, that of Schimper, *Turfmoor* is better, to my opinion. This one however does not represent as many species as Braithwaite does. I have also received lately, (two weeks ago) from Lindbergh, his ^{European and American Sphagnum} *Braithwaite*, the synonymy occupies a great deal of place. There must be also some excuse in my favor for incorrect quotations in the deficiency of my botanical library. When Sullivant was living, I had his books at my disposal. Since the Sullivant's library was transferred to Harvard, I have had to rely on what I have and that is not much. Thus, for example for the name of ~~the~~ *Sphagnum* of *Sphagnum cuspidatum* I find quoted in Muhl. *S. hypnoides*, A. Braun

in Bot. Zeit. etc. For scientific details of this kind, it is certain that the long synonymy of Braithwaite in *Lindb.* has great value. And my remarks too are not made in a sense of objection to what you write me; for I have many times felt the insufficiency of some of my quotations, and the necessity of correcting them if possible. For the mosses, for example, described by Desimp. *Proc. & Proceed.* of the Am. Acad. of Arts & Sci. I have to quote from a separate copy of the memoir, but I do not know the volume, as I have not the *Proceedings*. This deficiency is lamentable, indeed. I shall be greatly obliged to you for correcting any traces of it. And please be certain of this: that I shall consider as a kindness of yours any kind of critical remarks or correction that you may find advisable to make on my work.

Very respectfully and thankfully yours
J. S. Sargent



Lesquereux, Léo. 1883. "Lesquereux, Léo June 26, 1883 [to S. Watson]." *Leo Lesquereux letters to Asa Gray*

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