

it a "popular" plant. Pellea Breweri too, may command a limited sale, if it proves hardy? Woodia oregana is rather more hopeful.

We grow Primula Parryi grandly now. Deep rich moist-peat soil. Lewisia too is quite "at home". We have not yet flowered Tolimonium confertum, but have a fine lot of it. Ranunculus adoniceus & Actinella grand. also grow well. Geutiana Parryi (but few) & progresses very slowly. G. affinis free, & plenty of it.

We have lately got a grand lot of the charming Daphne rupestris from South Tyrol; a virtually new plant which will be highly prized. Also Primula spectabilis.

Very sincerely thy friend
Chas Backhouse

York 21/10 mo. 1875

Dear Dr. Gray

I am afraid lest something has happened to Dr. Chapman? as I have never heard from him direct, or received any Sarracenia Purshii - mondi, or any other plants.

Nor have I yet heard from P. J. Berckmaier respecting the Silene Baldwinii: but as these would take some time to establish, I am not surprised, - expecting to hear when he has them ready to offer.

I am almost sorry that a root or two of it was not sent to me at first, but Mr. Berckmans should fail with it? We have done well with S. rotundifolia & now have some fine vigorous plants of it thriving famously.

Dr. Parry has not found much in the region he has explored this summer. The best consignment, by far, was a fine lot of young plants (4 to 6 inches high) of Picea concolor. But unfortunately they were taken up with such bad roots (practically no roots at all, in many instances, — the fibres being torn off) that

we have to treat them as cuttings, & thus lose a season in being able to sell them. The next best new thing is Spirea cespitosa; & a lot of Agave Utahensis will be valuable. But this is nearly all that is of commercial value beyond what the cost of carriage will neutralise! So that I calculate upon a rather heavy loss this season — hoping, however, that a good part (at least) will be made up, in due time, with the Piceas.

The district of Utah in which he has worked seems remarkably unproductive of showy plants. Syntherisma pinnatifida possibly may turn out pretty well, but I have no idea that we shall ever find



Backhouse, James. 1875. "Backhouse, James Oct. 21, 1875." *Asa Gray correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/221276>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/258916>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.