

My Dear Dr. Watson:-

New York April 8, 1888.

I dislike above all things to hurt anyones feelings, and it has been only after a very careful study of the matter and a survey of the ground covered and the questions involved that I have brought myself to what you designate "the craze". It is no craze with me, but the deliberate result of my judgment (I am imagining what kind of judgment you are assigning me.)

And you should not, in fairness, charge me with making new names for old plants for that is just what I deprecate as much as you possibly can. I am only

contending for old names which never ought
to have been laid aside, and for the
continued use of these first names in
whatever genus the plant may be located.
This offers the only probability of stability
for nomenclature, and with its strict
application we can bring our names of
flowering plants into harmony with those
of the Cryptogamists and the Zoologists
and all use the same general system.
Is not this a result worth trying hard to
attain? And I beg you to understand, my
dear Doctor that if I should, perhaps, move
a name of your giving there is no personal feeling
in any way connected with it for you, of all men
I have the very highest regard.

Very Respectfully Yours,
N. L. Britton.



Britton, Nathaniel Lord. 1888. "Britton, Nathaniel L. Apr. 8, 1888 [to S. Watson]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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