

and
Forks of Pigeon Haywood Co., N.C., Sep 24/58

Dear Prof. Gray I have obtained a good many of your desiderata & planted them at Asheville & this place so as to send in as few boxes as possible. Of some I can only obtain the seeds. To obtain them renders it necessary to travel over more ground than I should to get the desiderata of Parsons & Co. You said that you would be willing to share the expense with them. I wish you would send me a draft on New York for \$50 & if you think it too much I will refund to you on my return north.

The figure of Abies Fraseri as copied by Donnell from Lambert is correct. I did not get the cones last spring and never obtained them till now. It is a much larger tree than stated by Donnell. There is no mistaking the bractose cones, & the specimen labeled in the herb. of the Phila. Acad. collected by Picher from the White Mts, is a true Fraseri.

I thought last spring that the bracts on the cones might be its young state but I was mistaken. I was led to this

another species of *Abies* on these Mountains
which I believe to be undescribed. It
was collected by me years ago on the
Smoky Mts, I now have a specimen
without cones labeled *A. Fraseri*. Its cones
resemble somewhat those of *A. nigra* but
they are more obtuse. It is here called
the Silver Balsam & the *nigra* the Red
Balsam. I saw an abundance of the
true *Fraseri* on the Black Mt, & two
or three days since I climbed a lone tree
& obtained a few cones on a mt. in
this vicinity. On the Smoky Mts. I
found a Composite plant which is new
to me. Its flowers are shaped much
like those of the common Canada Thistle.
It is from 12 to 18 in. high & has leaves
resembling the *Elephantopus*. Its stem is
nearly destitute of leaves. I have measured
one Mt. higher than the Black. It
is among the Smoky Mts, & is 6737 ft.
high I write in great haste being about
to start on a distant Mt. excursion.
Please direct to me at Asheville
Buncombe Co. N.C.,

Yours truly
S. B. Buckley



Buckley, S. B. 1858. "Buckley, Samuel B. Sept. 24, 1858." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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