

August 30th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Your letters of August sixteenth and eighteenth are here. I read them both with much pleasure and found in them much that needed to be answered. Just at present I am unable to do much for you because the package of specimens is still in the Customs. For the first time in thirty years or more I have been called on to pay duty on a parcel of herbarium material. In this case some five dollars. Of course the whole thing is a misunderstanding and will be cleared up promptly, but I am now waiting for results.

I will get after 276 and 289 when I go to Boston next time. The *Habenaria* specimens will receive prompt attention just as soon as the package comes from the Custom House. I am just as anxious as you are for results because I am hoping that some of the unidentified species may be new and will give me material to strengthen the Central American part of Sched. Orch. 6, a contribution that already has 34 Philippine novelties in the manuscript copy. There is no use in pretending that I can do the work I want to do while I am forced to remain in the country. I am looking forward most impatiently to the arrival of the day when the family will be content to re-enter the city and take up the winter's job. I tried to lug out here enough material to keep me busy, but if I wanted a book, it was in Boston, and if I wanted to make a critical comparison with some closely allied species, I found that I must wait until I went to Boston. When I finally went to Boston, my assistants

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burdened me with questions about the Philippine List or about the proof of Standardized Horticultural Names, a work for which my laboratory is doing the orchid genera. As a matter of fact I have found that in Boston, it is only after the evening comes and I can settle down to uninterrupted studies that I make progress. It will be well for you to join with me in impatience for the end of September.

Regarding the Standardized Horticultural Names, I think I may have some reprints. One of these will go to Powell.

My understanding was that you were in funds to September. Your letter of the 18th seems to confirm that understanding. I will get a check off to you when I go to Boston next week. I think, for the present, that we may as well operate on the old basis. I agree with you that the fruits of the first year have not been all that we might wish, but I am an old hand at the game and I know that results are slow in the orchid game. On the other hand I am not sure just what the first year has yielded because I have not had the time to overhaul the field specimens and a number of you mounted specimens need attention. When I have settled down to the intensive work on Panama material that I intend to begin when I move to town, it will be time enough to express any disappointment that I may feel. You may be sure of one thing: it is worth a great deal to me to know that you are interested in our cooperative scheme and that you derive a little pleasure from it. I do not undervalue the herbarium you have contributed and I do not measure its significance by the dollar standard. I do not overlook the wealth of bottled specimens from which it will be possible to construct an illustrated flora of the Isthmus.

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I do not forget the advantage of having an inaeatigable worker as a colleague. And then, think of the peace of mind in which I regard the Panama enterprise when I realize that an end has come to what was once an ever-present dread; the dread that Berlin was in possession of facts that might at any time overwhelm my capacity to keep abreast of the times. If you are satisfied, then I am.

What you say about species of the *Spiranthes* alliance coming into your hands, makes me feel that you are beginning to get familiar with a field of work that is sure to yield valuable results. I am sure that once your man gets the orchid aura in his eye that you will find a large number of orchids near you that have escaped your attention up to the present time.

Habenaria, nos. 316, 317, 318 & 321. Probably *Habenaria alata* Hook. The toothed labellum and conspicuously winged ovary suggest this species. Determination provisional, as only flowers in alcohol have been examined. In any case this species is an addition to the flora of Panama. At present only three species have been reported from Panama. You will find a description of the species in AMES ORCHIDACEAE, IV, 273. It has been reported from Costa Rica.

The Philippine job is just about done. I begin the typing early next week. It has been a long pull, but must be counted as worth while and one more needful task completed. Now for Sched. Orch. 6. Ten plates are ready to be reproduced. It will be a dandy. But at present disappointing in the lack of C.A. orchids.

Very faithfully yours,

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Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Aug. 30, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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