

EZRA BRAINERD
SPRINGSIDE
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

May 25th, 1922.

Dear Mr. Dean: -

I am much interested to discover what Mrs. John E. Thayer's "naturally bright-yellow violet" is. Your two letters of May 19th and 22d and your postcard of the 23d seem somewhat at variance. In the first you write Mrs. Thayer "showed me in her garden a white, purple-streaked violet, stemless, with flower stems (peduncles?) shorter than the leaves. I don't know where it came from, it was given to her and is ^uflor_xishing. I enclose a flower and leaf and bud. Rootstock fleshy, thickened. Beard of lateral petals knobbed. Can you name it? I shall press a specimen she gave me in case you want to see more."

This description and the scanty material sent I examined most carefully, and found that it agreed remarkably well with an albino of V. papilionacea Pursh cited ⁱⁿ the Violet Bulletin, page 23 number two, from Glastonbury and New London, Conn., now abundant in my garden.

But in your letter of May 22d you say Mrs. Thayer's violet was "bright yellow; the flowers turned white in going to you. I pressed a specimen of the same plant, and when I opened the press the flower had turned white."—Such behavior would be quite unprecedented. It must have been the white-flowered plant that you described in your first letter that you put into the press, and not a bright-yellow one. Note that in our Northeastern flora there are only two stemless

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yellow violets, V. rotundifolia and V. orbiculata. All others have purple or white flowers.

It remains to discover what was Mrs. Thayer's bright-yellow flowered plant. It must have been introduced from the Old World or from the southern hemisphere. If I had a genuine specimen of the Thayer plant, I think, with the help of my European text-books I might make it out.

I hope I may be of some help to you in the problem.
As of old,

Your sincere friend,

Ezra Brainerd.



Brainerd, Ezra. 1922. "Brainerd, Ezra May 25, 1922." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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