

* F. SCHUYLER MATHEWS *

* EL. FVREIDIS *

* BLAIR N. H. *



R. F. D. PLYMOUTH N. H.

Sept 11th/12

Dear Mr. Drake

Excuse my delay in replying to your last. but I have been busy at a large thing & my letters are slowly answered. I shall be glad to let you have one of the Chapel Fair pictures, if you really desire one (there are 2 left over). but you must not take it unless you want the picture. I sold a dozen of these 2 that are left are marked 2⁵⁰ each - You know up here, people do not expect to pay much at a fair. So I dash off the sketches and sell them more as souvenirs than serious watercolors. However there is a good Mt. Wash. fine Lac. Kemuncie ravine about as large as a magazine pg. - Snow on top the peak spring foliage - as I saw it one time in May. All the pictures painted of this vicinity sold. Our table took in over \$50. The sum total was \$160 - That will keep things going for more than 1/2 the year for them. I'll send or bring the picture down, but do not send cash up here, wait till I see you that'll do. Besides you may not call

for the sketch. I've been busy ever since
I wrote you with Prof Bailey's sketches -
most of these "sketches" Spec^{ns} read from
Mr. Reider. A few days ago, a large
party of us incl Mrs M. (of Census, G. & C
& Frank H.) Attempted Walden Mt. Got
at the foot, & the uncertain day, proved
certain rain! At 11.30 it began to pour
so we retreated back to the Farm Hs.
Ate picnic lunch there & ret'd late p.m.
Genevieve & Frank, made a rapid ascent.
at 3. p.m. betw showers, but they had no
view. Carroll & I returned on our wheels at
3. p.m. in 2 hours were home & dry! The
others (except G. & Frank) returned in Mt. Wagon
dry! fortunately, for the heavy shower came
just as they drew up in front of cottage.
G & I were on their wheels & they got drenched,
in that last shower. Horrid Mt. Weather, all
attempts to climb Mt. abortive. I planned
Moose Lake again with party of 9. & got
telephone that top house would be closed
that very day! A shame to close the top
of the Mt. 1st week in Sept. But August is
no month in wh. to do any climbing. C &
G & Frank have wanted to "do" the Franconia
Range - Mt Lafayette etc. - to desert weather
& that is now given up. Frank has to return to

Harvard on Monday next. I will go to Prof. Pickering's Observatory to do Math. work connected with the stars. for this winter. Positions offered to me for teaching were too far away from home, & entirely unremunerative from our point of view to be accepted. I tell G. better be at home & take what is offered at the Ob. which work will be good practice & in another year something may come along more acceptable. We shall keep Carver up here as long as possible (end of month) School notwithstanding - his health demands the first consideration. As you say, the political problem is puzzling. I went to "Primary" up here a week ago. Only 71 votes were cast. The result was none of mixed Rep. & Progress.^{ive} I go to West Mass to lecture in Mid. Oct. & later go to Cleveland O. where I have 2 lect.^s to del.^r

Witch Mt. is an interesting one to climb 3400 ft. nearly like Chocoma; all granite ledges & cliffs. *Empetrum nigrum*, blueberry. *Arenaria* *groul.*? *Paronychia*, & *Botrychium* & some few rare things there. I was sorry not to go up. But may attempt it later. My ankle is O.K. from the Cottage to the base of the Mt. is $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles which one can easily do on the wheel. but we can also take Train to Camp Hill, & saw 4 miles. I would have liked to do Mt. Wash. this year again, but there is no good weather! I have been recently working over 2 gentians *G. linearis* & *G. Anacostii* morphologically they are different! The former is self-fertile & quite as often as cross-f?

Miegand has sent me a long list of things to do for his end of Prof. B. Cyclopaedia, & I suspect this will cut

down my vacation hours considerably.

Probably I shall run up to Profile Ho for a day with Carol (on the bicycle), but I doubt if I shall feel able to tackle Mt. Lafayette, tho that is not a difficult Mt. to climb.

I have added a very few color analyses to my "pack of cards" But *Gentiana*, *Calluna vulgaris*, and a half-dozen other species, give me some important points which I have greatly needed. I am growing more & more interested in this research, & feel confident that if some botanist with a gift of color analysis and a knowledge of chemistry had tackled the subject a long time ago, he would have settled forever, any doubts & mysteries related to insect agency, & color development. Darwin just peered into the matter, but he was evidently unable to proceed along lines which demanded a considerable knowledge of the chemical nature of color.

As a matter of fact I haven't time enough to do anything at all which might be considered progressive, without dropping all my other work for perhaps, years! Give our love to Mrs. Dracul. Before long we will see you in Cant. The others may go down at the close of this month, but I shall remain until early Oct. say the 4th or 5th Cant. will get.

Very truly yours

L. Schuyler Matthews



Mathews, F. Schuyler. 1912. "Mattews, Ferdinand Schuyler Sept. 11, 1912."
Walter Deane correspondence

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