

Demorest Ga  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 793

My dear Mr Deane:-

Your Willow specimen is so fragmentary, and mixed as to be of almost no value. If all the leaves are from the same plant - which I doubt - we have one of those intermediate forms not uncommon in New England - but the twig of young leaves seems more discolor while the detached (older) leaf is more like humilis - The fertile aments accompanying are either S. sericea or possibly S. puberularis. (The two not clearly distinguishable at this early stage of growth) So far from the leaves "becoming glabrous". you will see by the fragments returned that it is the younger leaves which are only thinly overspread with hairs while the older leaf is quite

pubescent beneath - Your corres-  
pondent probably relied upon a  
memorandum as to the locality &c.  
There is no safe way for the  
notice but to use tags -

I could tell in this connection  
a funny story - about a mistake  
made by one usually so very  
careful friend Prof L. F. Ward -

He sent me specimens mixed of  
*S. longifolia* & *S. nigra* - mixed leaves  
and mixed flowers - I called his  
attention to the fact and he  
replied that he did not see how  
there could possibly be any mistake  
the bush grows by itself - in a  
locality, hardly remembered and  
he was quite sure that fls & fol  
were from the same bush - I  
returned the him specimens of each  
species - the identity of which he  
recognized - but still protested that  
how the mixture came about was  
more a mystery to him than is

was to me - I had forgotten all  
about the matter when the next  
spring I received a numerous  
letter glorifying the accuracy of  
the clond botanist and express-  
ing the abject humiliation of  
the local observer - He had found  
his one bush the consist of two -  
with branches ~~intricately~~ growing  
in intricate confusion -

I sent you yesterday a  
little box containing leaves of  
Chalax - I am told that if placed  
in water and set in a cool  
place they will keep fresh for  
many days - I hope they  
may reach you in good condi-  
tion - but have my misgivings  
about that -

Yours cordially  
O. B. B.



Bebb, M. S. 1893. "Bebb, Michael Schuck Feb. 14, 1893." *Michael Schuck Bebb letters to Walter Deane*

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