

Cleawater Harbor Fla
March 27/94

My dear Mr Deane -

Alas I have let slip
the opportunity of a life time to
display my knowledge of The world
of botany! I thought that I remembered
that Acacia - and its name too -
his was afraid of airing my
ignorance instead of my knowledge.
The way it came to be so familiar
is this - I have a very fine
specimens from Iasomama and I
have been in the habit of showing
it as an illustration of the normal
development of the foliage of Acacias
in contrast with the phyllodium - One
of my stock show pieces when I
have some body to entertain who wants
to "see my herbarium" - However it
is better to have your independent
judgments and I am consoled -

Many thanks for your kind
services in this regard. I am
surprised to learn that the plant
can be cultivated in the open as
far north as Philadelphia. But I
will be bound it does not grow
five feet per annum in that
latitude. Here it is one of the
most beautiful trees I ever saw -
its peculiar charm being enhanced
by the contrast with more formal
American types. The foliage is so
so soft, dense and feathery - that is
while individual sprays are seen to
be almost fern like. The total
effect is that of a mass casting
a deep shadow. The tree top is
very symmetrically rounded being
clumpy. I will visit it again for
I do not remember the silver
branches.

Last winter I carted a lot of

dries down the Georgia which I
never so much as once used -
This time I brought less and now
I wish I had four times over the
quantity - Now can I get anything
here to use as a substitute -
However I think it is very likely
that Mrs Both will come with
me next winter and that we will
rent a small house and do
"light housekeeping" in which
events I shall feel like collecting
freely for the benefit of friends
as well as myself -

In my morning walk yesterday
I came across a saucer shaped
sink hole with a pool of water in
the centre - Around the sandy margin
of the pool grew plentifully a
pretty little southern Drosera
which I have before received from
Canby and others - It was just

beginning the seed up in flower
stock and will be in good condition
for specimens in fortnight hence.

There is a wild spot within
walking distance of the villan
known as "Witches Gulch". It is
not truly a gulch in any ordinary
acceptation of that term. But the
bed of a creek near the coast -
very near - which has been silted
up by the action of the waves
long years ago and now it is
overgrown with a weird, luxuriant
subtropical vegetation - tortuous
trunks draped in Spanish Moss -
branches bent down and many of
them broken under a weight of
air plants - mainly the more robust
species of Tillandsia - with a dense
and almost impenetrable undergrowth
of low Palmettos and Spanish Bay nets
(Yucca). In one spot several rods

in extent from the most stately
Fern I have ever seen in its
native wilds. The fertile fronds
were densely covered all over the
under surface with brown spores
so that the two surfaces green
and brown made a striking
contrast. and as I made my
way into the temple I found
that they stood two feet above
my head. I had not realized
that such a fern growth existed
in a wild state. anywhere within
the limits of the United States.

Now I would enjoy a trip to
Boston - to see you and your
dear wife in your own home -
and Mr Rand with his
"charming" mate and all the
rest. Dear! Dear! Now res

any further I don't does interfere
with the things we would like
to do.

I like to get letters from
Oren - He does warm me
so refreshingly on the nomenclature
question - and always writes
so enthusiastically about his
favorite Hot Desert.

A pleasant letter from Chilton
a few days ago - He is coming to
visit me after I get back - It
will be a rare pleasure to entertain
a real, live botanist - You gave me
the slip - I forgive you only
don't let the like happen again -

Very sincerely yours
O. S. B. B.



Bebb, M. S. 1894. "Bebb, Michael Schuck Mar. 2, 1894." *Michael Schuck Bebb letters to Walter Deane*

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