

Springfield, Nov. 11. 1896 -

My dear Mr. Deane,

I am most happy to send back the *Myriophyllum*. I know many a pond ^{amongst Saul's hills} where it grows in the greatest abundance, and have a little piece pressed besides. I have known it as *Myriophyllum* for some fifty years, I never made out the variety with certainty, but I never had the zeal and enthusiasm to call it a *Proserpinaca*. You shall have a curious four-leaved clover too. A friend of mine was up in Rowe in the summer and saw the plant there from which this came, - also had a piece of it given to her which she still has growing in a pot. Most of the leaves are like this, and Miss Dunbar, the owner, says that after a while the slender little fourth leaf grows to be just like the rest! Now we know better at our botanical society, or we are stuck-up enough to think we do, but poor Miss Dunbar ^{who is no botanist.} is sick with nervous prostration, and we can't cross question her as

we would like to, but we can't believe that that leafstalk takes on tissue each side of it till it becomes a mere midrib. You may remember ~~a~~ something that I gave you that looked like a long slender pine cone - it came from California - Tell the lady who sent it has come home, and she says it is not a cone but a branch of a tree called there the Rat-Tailed pine; all the branches are like this she says, but she too is no botanist.

Many all hopes of a rooted *Pieris* from me; the *P. hieracioides*, the first species found, was represented by one single plant, which was three or four feet high, and spread its great branches far and wide. We thought, considering the thousands of winged seed that it must have borne that it would soon be a Park weed, but it has never reappeared. The *echinoides* was a smaller plant and there were a dozen specimens or so; that too was seen but one year.

~~Now~~ I have begun to select the plants that I am going to send you, but my recreation has to give way to my work always; I am hoping however to

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get the package made up in a week
or two when I shall write again -

And now I come to the subject for
which this letter was written - ^{the} other
matters could have waited, but I had a
letter from Mr. Floyd today asking
some advice, and you can give it better
than I. Every young botanist has an
oracle, I suppose; mine was Mr. John
Lewis Russell, - my first one, for I
was but twenty when I made his ac-
quaintance, - I have had two or three
more since -

Mr. Floyd asks but two questions,
but he tells interesting things in his
letter which I want to tell you, they
throw side lights on his character.
But looking over it I see that I should
have to copy about the whole so why
not send it? You need not return it.
I saw the *Potentilla recta*, but sent it
back; it answered the description in every
point.

I wish Mr. F. was a better speller, but

There are people of very fair education
who are always deficient in that point.
~~But~~ Please show your eyes to his
short comings -

Well, I was going to say that I seem
to be Mr. Floyd's oracee now, but I
want him to have a better one; I
want him well brought up from the
rudiments. You said if you knew his
address you might perhaps call in
and see him; it would be a great
favor if you would. His office is Room 23
Old Court House, Boston; and that is
the only address I know. If you could
even give him an hour or two at your
own house, and show him your
method or with illustrations from your
herbarium, it would be of the greatest
possible help to him. He has Saturday
afternoon besides his evenings and Sundays.
But I know how busy you are, so I
shall not say a word to him about calling
on you, ^{unless} ~~but~~ I have your permission -
I enclose a few headings &c. for the little
collectors - some in duplicate -
Yours very truly Maria L. Owen -



Owen, Maria L. 1896. "Owen, Maria Louisa Nov. 11, 1896." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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