

Question was "Dusted specimens or none at all?" and here is the answer.

Don't return the cutting from Miss Harrison's letter; you will find something on the opposite side to the story of Miss Cannon very instructive to stamp collectors.

Yours very truly
Maria L. Owen -

Springfield Jan. 16 - 1897

My dear Mr. Deane,

A new specific name for our *Azolla* leads me to take up your late letters and answer them a little ahead of their turn. A long time ago I sent specimens to my friend Miss Harrison in San Francisco who gave them to Miss Eastwood who is I think at the head of the botanical department of the California Academy of Sciences; ^{she} sent them to Prof. Douglas Campbell and a few days ago gave Miss H. who was making her a call, the enclosed slip of paper. So the doctors disagree! Prof. Campbell wrote that he had been so crowded with work that he had not been able to attend to this before. I wish I knew the authority for the sp. name *fragilis*, but as I did

do not find it added to the name
Perhaps it was not on that nice
large beautifully written label in the
Antwerp garden; my Conscience tells me
However that it is much more likely
that I trusted it to memory and
then forgot it.

I will enclose part of Miss H.'s
letter, for you to read that account of
Miss Cannon. Such intemperance in
a recreation harmless in itself is pain-
ful to see; I have known two or three
such cases myself, and as I have
said to you before, I fear that Mr. Floyd's
love of botany may be indulged too much.

I am glad you like the book-mark
though I did not do it; it is not hand-work,
— a "Delft-Card", imported.

Some Hydrodictyon followed your letter
very closely; I guess you stirred Mr. L. up
to sending it. I wanted it chiefly for Miss Booth
our microscopist, and after taking out a
little I carried the rest to her.

I have looked up *El. acicularis* in the

Park Flora — had not seen it before.

I guess Mr. Stebbins gave me the *Botry-*
Chium, but I made no note of locality
or date as it was a sterile frond only; it
seemed too good to throw away however
as it was so large. I am pretty sure it was
from Mr. Tom.

I thought you would throw away that
Artemisia which is growing so common; I
only wanted to know if I had got the real
thing, but here's the label.

I will send with this some *Silene*; I am
ashamed of it, but only because I cannot
proclaim what the difficulties were in wash-
ing it out of its native mud, which was
as tenacious and slimy as if the liquid part
was a thick solution of gum instead of clean
water. I was visiting your town, and though
Mrs. Starbuck is a lifelong friend, and her
porch & back yard where I did the work were
as free to me as to herself, one hates to be mes-
sing and slopping with such dirty work.
Her time was lacking besides; I was enter-
tained most delightfully with long drives, and
company & all sorts of things, and should I
take myself away from my kind hostess & her
family to dabble in mud for hours? So the



Owen, Maria L. 1897. "Owen, Maria Louisa Jan. 16, 1897." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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