

I promised Dr. Robinson a list of the new plants found since the catalogue came out if I even had time to make it, - a promise worded in such a way that I can keep it.

I fancy you now much occupied with your new work amongst the birds. You will be interested in the accounts of some bird groups in our Art Museum, all made and placed there since you were here. They are beautiful and lifelike and instructive, but I do hate to have the pretty creatures killed even for this purpose. I can't help admiring them, however; there was nothing that I saw in the S. Kensington half as pleasing to me as the long rows of cases of birds mounted in this way. Such an exhibit was entirely new to me then, and I little thought that I should soon see in my own home just such work, done too by the very people who had done what was then under my admiring eyes.

Please remember me to your wife. I hope she and you both are feeling the good effects of your long stay in the mountain air of New Hampshire. Your very truly Maria L. Owen

Springfield, Nov. 28. 1897.

Dear Mr. Deane,

We have had quite a pleasant Thanksgiving here, with my son and daughter both at home. Walter is gaining the use of his stiff elbow joint by degrees, and we hope will be as well as ever by next summer.

Our botanical society closed its meetings for the season the last Friday in October; we gave especial attention to mushrooms for the whole six months, and one of our members collected, cooked and ate nine different kinds in that time.

My list is shorter; I count up only six, but they made up in abundance for the lack of variety; there were two kinds growing so near us that I could run out, collect enough for a good meal

and get back in fifteen minutes
from the time of starting. I don't
know that you have ever taken
any study for this very practical ap-
plication of your knowledge. We are
very cautious in our society about
encouraging the taking use of mush-
rooms, so we have given no publicity to
our studies, and in answer to questions
though we have willingly shown the
contents of our baskets, ~~we~~ and have
displayed what we were going to cook,
we have added most emphatic warn-
ings about the poisonous kind. A
woman in this city was poisoned to death
by eating mushrooms that she had col-
lected herself and which she felt sure
were wholesome; if she had been one of
our members, or had even learned any-
thing, - wrong or right, - from us, we
should have felt it as a calamity

that we could ^{never} get over, but she was
an utter stranger to every one of us,
and we knew nothing of her experience
with any mushrooms till we read of
her sad fate in the papers.

I had a pleasant letter from Dr.
Robinson a while ago, as you may know.
Carrying out instructions from the Botani-
cal Club, he wanted to know how (or
when) to get a Nat. Catalogue, and I let
him know by promptly sending him a
copy, - quite gratified to find that the
Club would value it. But there are
some errors that I wish I had corrected;
besides those noticed in "Corrections and
Additions" there is one on page 55.

P. Sylvestris, L. should be *P. Sylvestris*, L.
If it ever comes handy perhaps you
will rectify these things with pen or pencil,
but if not, there is the consolation of
knowing that nobody cares but myself -



Owen, Maria L. 1897. "Owen, Maria Louisa Nov. 28, 1897." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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