

Springfield, June 21 - 1891

Dear Mr. Deane,

I suppose our secretary sent you word that the Sp.-Bot. Society would subscribe for the new bot. magazine, and you had my promise before. What attracts me to it is that it is not to be repellingly scientific. I am glad you enjoy your bird studies. I wonder if you ever knew a sparrow-hawk to build a nest and rear a brood in a barn in daily use. I know of such a case, and I can't say enough in praise of that judicious, discriminating, obliging bird, for the barn owner is one of the two best ornithologists in Springfield, - made for the time being a proud and happy man.

Our best botanical find this year so far is *Pentstemon grandiflorus*, Fraser. Dr. Chapin and two of the ladies of our Society found a patch of it, - about one hundred plants, large & small, and about

Twenty five in bloom, fine, thrifty specimens. This was in wood on the edge of the town, not near any railroad. It may be a survival of the flower partially driven out by the first settlers and their successors, or it may at some time have been cultivated as a garden flower and sprung from seed carried there by bird or wind. I don't find it in the Preliminary Catalogue of the Torrey Club, 1888, - only *P. pubescens*, <sup>Solander</sup>

This latter species is not very rare with us - scarce, I should call it, but every few years somebody brings it in, and we know perhaps half a dozen widely distant localities. Then once I had

*P. Digitalis*, Nutt. - brought up from Connecticut, and ~~this is not in the Torrey Catalogue as either.~~ <sup>These two are in the Torrey Catalogue as</sup> *P. hirsuta* (L.) Willd. & *P. levigata* Soland. var. *Digitalis* (Nutt.) Gray.  
O Another find is *Viola pubescens*, var. *scaberrimula* - three plants - Nutt.



is endeared by a thousand memories, has had poetry written about it,—twice! Has Coskata even once?

And Mr. Editor, can't you look up Charles F. Briggs' pretty sonnet, "Coatue," in "Seaweeds from the Shores of Nantucket," and reprint it in your columns? It would be new to most of your readers and would please all.

MARIA L. OWEN, Springfield,  
Indorsed by Mary G. Tallant, Northampton, Susan C. Hosmer, Worcester, Emily Shaw Forman, Wellesley Hills, Herbert Shaw Forman, Cambridge, Harriet P. Hazard, Roxbury, Bertha Hazard, Roxbury,

"O yes, we two  
Go in for Coatue."

Lorin L. Dame, Medford, with Isabel A. Dame, Gertrude Dame, Ruth Burleigh Dame, Olive Arnold Dame and Isabel Dame Bacon, also of Medford, Sarah J. Baker, Roxbury, Charlotte M. Gardner, Roxbury, Emily C. Coffin, Springfield, Margaret Swift Hosmer, Worcester, Louise Hosmer, Medford, Walter Tallant Owen, New York,

"The dream of my life to have that island named Coatue."

Amelia L. Owen, Boston, Alice Weld Tallant, Boston, George H. Mackay, Maria M. Mackay, Pauline Mackay, Caroline V. McGuffey, Margaret D. McGuffey, Boston.

So say we, all of us.

SPRINGFIELD, March 26, 1898.

#### THE LIST.

Coatue.  
Nauma.  
Wonoma.  
Great Point.  
Coskata.  
Offspring Island.  
Right Arm Island.  
Backus Island.  
Coskata.  
Coskata.  
Coskata.  
Coatue.  
Cedar.  
Cedar.  
Cutaway.  
Shetucket.  
Sandy Point.  
Sandy Land.  
Sandiland.  
Kiondike.  
Coskata.  
Century.  
Centennial  
Columbus.  
Coatue.  
Ocean Grant.  
Cedar.  
Whale Isle.  
Cedar.  
Plum.  
Crescent.  
Crescent.  
Cactus.  
Quarry.  
Noconom.  
Macy.  
Gosling.  
Storm.  
Weewinnet.  
Nauma.  
Sherburne.  
Little Sherburne.  
New Sherburne.  
Tempest.  
Quarry.  
Coskata.  
Sachem.  
Island Home.  
Independence.  
Rivenoak.  
New Nantucket.  
Little Nantucket.  
Coatue.  
Harbor Island.  
Channel Island.  
Easterly Island.  
Coatue.  
Quarry.  
Windmere.  
Coatue.  
Ocean's Choice.  
Infant Island.  
White Island.  
Nantuquito.  
Tashma.  
Coatue.  
Nichanoose.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Haulaway.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.  
Cedar.  
Last.  
Little Nauticon.  
Coskata.  
Coskata.  
Coatue.  
Coatue.

*This is a list that the editor put in  
week after week — easy way of filling space in his columns —  
it pretends to be a full and accurate list of all the names that  
had been sent in, but it is not so.*

#### For the New Island.

[For Inquirer and Mirror.]

Mr. Editor:

Here's Off-Island sailing down to vote upon that cut-off piece of Nantucket, with Coatue on all her flying colors. And her crew? Legal voters every one. By birth or residence, and by true love, all have a right to join in the annual Boston reunion of Nantucketers, and what fuller credentials can be required?

And thus speaks the skipper:

I have read the list of names proposed for the new island and admire their brightness and wit,—their appropriateness also if the island were new in another sense,—if the old giant sachem had lately found his moccasins full of sand again, and had emptied them out as before into the ocean. But the island under anxious consideration now, is not new in that way, and I feel that no new name could ever find or make a warm place in Nantucket hearts, so my choice, after hovering over Coatue and Coskata, has settled upon the former, and I do not see that any confusion or misunderstanding would arise from having the name of the whole the same as that of one of the parts.

Let us suppose a name agreed upon and bestowed; can we also suppose an occasion for using it? Should we ever say "I am going over to Little Nauticon" or to "Cactus," or whatever? No; the inclusive name will always stay in innocuous desuetude, like, for instance, the "Sia" of 'Sconset.

Coskata has good claims, and it would be my second choice, but isn't it simply the eastern end and expansion of Coatue? We easily conceive of Coatue as including Coskata, but not the reverse. Coatue has always been a pleasure resort for the town's folk, is more in evidence,



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gives this variety specific rank, and it  
is in appearance different enough from  
the type to attract the eye at once.

Bradford Torrey tells quite at length of  
his pleasure at finding it in Virginia in  
"A Week in the Alleghanies" in the April  
Atlantic.

I send a few letter headings. The  
young friend who receives the Nant. Hist.  
Society's seal, as shown on the envelope,  
may like to know its meaning. In 1659  
Thomas Mayhew of Martha's Vineyard sold  
his property in Nantucket, a large part of the  
island, to nine men who meant to settle  
there, for thirty pounds in money and two  
beaver hats one for himself and one for  
his wife. The seal tells the story. The bow  
and arrow refer of course to the original  
owners. I suppose you and your wife will  
soon be off to one of your pleasant country  
resorts where I wish you both much health  
and happiness. Yours very truly  
(over) Maria L. Owen.



I almost forgot to mention the business part of this letter. I wrote it by itself on a separate sheet so as to give you just as little trouble as possible. I suppose you know some one who can tell Mr. Dana what he wants to know and if you will give him the two letters Mr. Dana's + mine you will not have to add a single word yourself.

I enclose a letter of mine to the Quaker paper. It is far more in fun than in earnest, and you won't understand the local allusions, and you know nothing about the previous letter that the Enquirer had been publishing for months. All these things are not worth explaining. But you will see some familiar names appended as my supporters. Even that string of indorses is a joke. This was lying here + I thought I might as well send it as to throw it into my waste basket.

M-L-O-



Owen, Maria L. 1898. "Owen, Maria Louisa Jun. 21, 1898." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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