

South Hadley, Hanover N. H. &c. and
everywhere college officers & students & the
best people of the neighborhood who cared
for our subjects attended the meetings.
Dr. Gray came to our sixth meeting
which was held at the Seminary, and
brought specimens of Gloriosa which he
made the theme of a pleasant and instructive
talk; he spoke of the fertilization of Opuntia
tuberosa, also. President Clark of Amherst
was the delight and pride of our local mem-
bership what a talker he was! and he always
came with his large botany box full of
choice specimens. Those happy times! Nothing
less than our complete record can tell of
them adequately, but I will give you a
few of the best known names from our
list of signatures. C. H. Hitchcock of Dartmouth;
and his brother Edward of Amherst, William S.
Clark of Amherst Ag. College. Edward Luck-
erman, D. P. Penhallow a young man then,
who has made a name for himself since,
W. P. Morgan & his wife Laura V. Morgan
both ardent students of fungi, and then

Springfield Feb. 14. 1899

Dear Mr. Deane,

I did all the things that
you wanted me to, to secure a notice of
Rhodora in the Republican, but if one
appeared it must have come out in the
Sunday paper which I seldom see. However,
I think the journal will make its own
way; it is very satisfactory.

What an escape Mr. Collins and his
sister had from poisoning! I shall be as
sure to let the Boletus alone after this as
Mrs Collins himself. I never did try one.
However, - never found one in good condition.
Judge Churchill's article was very inter-
esting; the neighborhood of "Land Springs"
reminds me of Nantuxet in its wealth of
varieties. I hope the Judge is well, - not
sent off there for his health. I shall observe
carefully the growth of Lycopodium inundatum
when I am in Nantuxet again; that,
or its variety var. Bigelovii is common

enough round many of our ponds.
The article on the N.E. Bot. Club was
interesting, but I could tell the founders
of one that they don't seem to have heard of,
and that is the "Connecticut Valley
Botanical Society," founded in June
1873. At that time I had lived in
Springfield twenty years and had hardly
met a botanist in all that time, and
of course I pined for companionship, so
at last I took pains to seek the acquain-
tance of Miss Prattuck the teacher of
botany at Mt. Holyoke Seminary, & called the
wives that got me invited up there, and
then I laid before her my plan for stated
gatherings of the botanists of the Valley. She
approved and told me that Rev. David Peck
of Whately would be sure to help me; when I
wrote to him he was interested but said that
Rev. Henry G. Jessup of Amherst would be an
invaluable helper, - and so he proved. Next
I invited the three to meet at this house
June 10. 1873; they came, stayed a day and

a night and we laid our plans, formed
and adopted a constitution and chose a
President and secretary, leaving other offices
unfilled. The first article of the Consti-
tution is "The undersigned, for the promotion
of the study of botany, and for mutual
improvement in that science, form an
association to be called the Connecticut
Valley Botanical Society." Now no two
clubs are exactly alike, but it seems
to me that ~~the~~ ^{the} aims ^{of these societies} are the same.
In one respect, however, the N.E. Bot. Club
can, if it insists upon that point, claim to
be the first, - it is a club of gentlemen
only, while ours was open to both sexes.
I was secretary from the beginning to
the end, and leave as a valued penquis-
sit (the only one that any body ever had)
the book which contains the complete
record. It was a very successful associ-
ation. Our meetings were held in Amherst

very influential in creating that interest.
There is an "Institute of Arts and Sciences,"
lately established in that city and an
"Interrogation Club" and an "Audubon So-
ciety" formed since Mr. & Mrs. V. went
back to live there, and they both take
an active part in all of them.

Now that I have commended my cousins
I will go back to Mr. Floyd. He is very
modest and feels himself quite unworthy of
the distinguished company that he meets at his
Club, and there is no affectation either when he
tells me so. But I feel sure that as an ob-
server, he is the equal of many far superior
to him in learning; it seems as if no variation
from a common form, however slight it may
be, escapes his eye. I think your older and wiser
men will find him a valuable member for
what he will bring to your notice, and as he
loves to learn from all sources, men, books &
nature, he will grow more & more worthy of
this association.

I hope that Mrs. Deane is as well as ever now,
and that you have not had her gripped at all.
Your affection has kept away from this family
for which we are truly thankful.

With regard to both of you,
Yours sincerely Maria L. Owen

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in 1873 was & is far ahead of the times,
J. G. Scott of the Westfield Normal School,
Wm. Penn Brooks, who has also become
pretty widely known; I think he is president
of the Ag. College now. Warren Upham
then at Dartmouth. Mr. C. G. Pringle
the well-known collector said he would
come and authorized up to sign his name,
but something prevented his attendance
after all. The members were so far
apart that we had but two meetings
a year and later only one, and though
that diminished to none, I feel that
the Society never died though it slept.
Some of our members died however, and
some moved far away, and botanists
became more numerous in the Valley so
that nobody was lonesome. We had a
flourishing society in Springfield ^{while} before the
Valley Society was still holding its meetings, to
these and some other causes led to the dearth in
its action which has not yet been broken.

I ought to say something about the members utterly unknown to fame who were drawn out by this association. People from little Country towns, women & men both, hard workers in bread winning occupations, who yet managed to find time for their beloved Science and to make progress in it. — They were born botanists, and that's the only way you can account for such things. A long story but I felt called on to say something for that dear old society, and I could not well say in in fewer words.

Mr. Floyd wrote to me about the new locality for *Epipactis Helleborine*, that your ornithological friend discovered, and of its mishap before reaching you. "Nothing too good for the baby" seems to be the law in many houses.

I feel a personal interest in your Club, I know so many of the members; some of them my relatives too, Ferdinand Mathews & Frederick Batchelder. Ferd (to

give him the name that his cousins call him by) is a very nice fellow; his faults, for he certainly has one or two, are on the surface and only skin deep; the better you know him the more you find that is good and pure and lovable. Mr. Floyd told me of his talk on color at a late meeting. I am afraid Mr. Batchelder will not be able to attend any meeting till the weather is much milder. A letter of Jan. 21. tells me that he had been sick with "general Bronchitis" and is not that a queer disease? Well, it confined him to his bed three weeks, and to the house two more, but he was so much better at the time of writing that he had been able to go up to Concord where he is organist at the Unitarian Church, and take up his interrupted Sunday work. He finds the winter climate of Boston very trying. Natural Science is creating much interest in Manchester now, and I feel sure that he and his wife have been



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