

Tradescantia in flower & hairy filaments;
in habit - blooming early in the morning
and melting & curling in before long,
but more like a *Commelina* in
leaves. Also one of the petals seems smaller
- slightly so - than the other two which is
like a *Commelina*. ^{Pod 3-celled, 3 seeds in each cell -} It was found in a
neglected yard amongst weeds & goldenrod
of its own height, from three to four feet.
Stems swollen at the joints. Inflorescence un-
like T. or C., for it is like that of the *Torrey*
family - the racemes coiled and straight-
ening as the flowers bloom. The plant
is not to be found in Chapman's
or Coulter's Flora (I don't find the Cali-
fornia Manual in our library) and it
is not in any list of ballast plants that
I have. It is an insignificant thing -
worthless as far as I can see, - but one
does not like to be baffled in her search.

I went out very little during the
excessive heat of the past summer,
and I think nothing of much importance

383 Union St.

Springfield Sept. 29. 1901.

Dear Mr. Deane,

I have a number of things
for you that I have collected in the
course of the summer which I
mean to send along when I think
you are settled again in your
Cambridge home.

1. Some monograms & similar
devices for your young collecting
friends and 2. Some post-marks
for that other collector. I would send
to him directly if I knew his address
and if he still wishes for these things.
I should think this taste might be
a short-lived one, and might disap-

and be succeeded by something
that would strike deeper. I
can furnish a few specimens
occasionally but I feel quite ig-
norant about what is wanted.
If you would put my three
queries into the package when
you send it along and tell the
young lad to reply to me di-
rectly if he thinks it worth
while, you need not have any
further care - "Push that but-
ton, and I will do the rest."

But would this plan be agreeable
to the boy? If you think it would, it
keeps back my questions, and I will
send through you in the future as in
the past.

3. Some pressed Bot. *matricariae-*
folium of different forms & sizes, I
don't suppose you want them ^{for your own hon-} but you
can give them away. In Rhodora of
last June R. M. Harper tells of this fern
found in Southbridge in this state and adds
that this seems to be the southernmost
station for it as it has not been
reported from R-Iland or Connecticut.
Then Dr. Chapin went to a spot well
known to him where this *Botrychium*
is abundant and brought me three
specimens and nearly a dozen more
which I sent to Mr. Floyd; I gave him
the very largest and some of smaller size.
I think our station is likely to be as
far south as that Southbridge place, and
if not, could be more than a mile far-
ther north; Dr. Chapin remarked very sensibly
that a fern growing in such luxuriance
and abundance was not likely to have
reached its limit.

4. I send a plant for a name - like a

was brought into our botanical Society, yet as Nature is inexhaustible and delightful there was always something that we were pleased to see and know about.

What did you find that you never saw before? And did you go to Caffrey as usual?

I went to Vermont for a week in August, and now am going to Nantucket.

Rhodora always has something interesting in it, and it is usually accurately printed, but a sad error appeared in Mr. Davenport's article in the September number - "not mechanically identical as if made by dyes"; it is evidently his own mistake, but passed over by the proof reader of the magazine. Dyes may make things superficially identical, but

it takes dies to make them mechan-
ically so.

- Now I must mention two things
that ought to have gone in before.
5. A little bit of an *Artemisia* that
I suppose is *A. biennis*. Dr. Chapin
found it on a dumping ground in the
City - the first time it has ever
been reported here, though as long ago
as the publication of ed. 5 the plant
was said to be travelling east rapidly.
Rather a handsome weed - this specimen
over three feet high.
6. The other specimen is a piece of a
raspberry bush with the leaves curi-
ously cut - this was sent from Bran-
den, Vermont. These things are of
slight value, but I don't want to
throw them away without showing
them to somebody.

7. My photograph that you asked me for two or three years ago, but I had none. Perhaps I told you that I had some taken about thirty years ago, which although finished and paid for I threw into the fire and stayed by till I was sure they were all consumed - ^{no, a year ago last spring} But last spring, the retiring president of the Women's Club came and asked for my photograph; I told her the same story and I was very unwilling to sit again, but I couldn't say that the request was unreasonable; I was the first president and elected for ten successive years and I could put myself in the place of the Club members and see them & should like to keep in mind

and pass down the features of one who had been so closely associated with our early days. I was told too what dress to wear; the ladies approved of something that I had appeared in at a club dinner with which we closed the season, and they wanted me to wear it without any change. I had a very trying time, - I certainly am not a good sitter, but the photographer was a good artist and would not give me up till he had made himself he could get of me. You wanted the picture for a collection you were forming of portraits of botanists, so here it is for that goodly company, though I feel unworthy of even a high honor.

I am finishing my letter many days after I began it - I laid it aside for other things because I thought you would not be at home before October, and even then would be too busy at first to pay attention to my miscellaneous budget.

Hoping that you and Mrs. Deane feel quite refreshed by your summer outing I am

Yours very truly
Maria L. Owen -



Owen, Maria L. 1901. "Owen, Maria Louisa Sep. 29, 1901." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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