

Mr. Taxon's plant, and so I am not
allowed to question whether it was the
real thing: but why did I never find
it, when I can prove that I began to
look for it more than fifty years
ago? Why has it escaped your eyes &
Judge Churchill's, ^{and} those of a dozen other
good botanists who have collected on this
island? Why has Mr. Dame never
collected it, who lived on the island
several years and has spent about a
dozen summer vacations there since
he has lived in Medford? Now my
proof - In 1850 Mr. John Lewis Russell
visited the island, gave a few Berlin
lectures on botany at my mother's house.
One day I took him down to Vernal
Point and we walked along the beach
to the north. Bigelow's "Plants of Boston"
was the only manual that I had even
used and in that was this report of
Glans in Plymouth, p. 104 of my edition,
the third, 1840, and I had bought the

Springfield, Dec. 24. 1902

Dear Mr. Deane,

I have a nice little calendar
from you as a Christmas greeting. It is
just right for the writing table, and
I shall have Sir Joshua's cunning little
girl before my eyes. I am acquainted
with the young lady, but cannot think
of her name at this moment.

I send you and Mrs. Deane
some Christmas card, intended for
postal card, - very faithful I think is
scenes in Holland. ^{I mean they are really} postal cards which I am
^{putting to this other use -}

I put in also the label that you
wanted - Please add the authority
to the name: I think it should be
"Gray". I believe the plant is restored to
specific rank now. I cannot find the
notice in "Rhodora" that led me to
mention that I had found it here, but

I think it was that ^{Springfield} was beyond any station yet reported.

And now that I am launched on Colony I may as ^{well} reply to your last letter, or I may not find time for months.

I am truly sorry for the soft coal nuisance that you have had to take into your house; I hope it will lead you to join with millions of other sufferers ~~at~~ at the right time and in the right way, viz: by your voice, your pen and your vote, to make it impossible even after this, for coal operators & railroad companies to bring such a calamity on the land. I have my usual supply of coal, put in at my usual time, May or June, but my friends all about me are trying all sorts of expedients to keep barely comfortable in one or two rooms. One of them has shut up her house, taken the nice maid who has

lived with her for years, and gone south, but she is a single woman of abundant means.

I am much pleased to have the information about Amorphophallus. I have a nice little plant - resting now, - and I have pictures and descriptions of Amorpha = Conophallus and Godwinia.

I see by the November "Rhodora" that Mr. Faxon found Glaux maritima in Nantucket in 1878, so I have made an entry to that effect in my Nantucket Catalogue; I see you found ^{it} in Wells, Maine in 1886. Mr. Fernald overlooked in his article, or in preparing the article, the record of its having been found in Plymouth, Mass. by Mr. Tuckerman. That was probably ^{Edward} Professor Tuckerman, as he afterwards became, of Amherst, and his plant may be in the Herbarium of the College now. I suppose Mr. Fernald has seen

plant on our shores so long that I
asked Mr. Russell something about it,
perhaps how it looked or its special
habitat, but did not know it,
and could give me no help.

1878 - 24 years ago, but Tillaea
reappeared after some sixty years. But
Tillaea is abundant where it grows
and has been overlooked from its mi-
nuteness and its resemblance - the land
form - to *Myriophyllum*. I wonder if
Mr. Faxon's specimen is labelled with
the exact locality - we have some
forty miles of beach, and I don't
suppose all the botanists together ever
covered the whole of it in their walks.

But I must close with all
the good wishes of the season from
your sincere friend
Maria L. Owen.



Owen, Maria L. 1902. "Owen, Maria Louisa Dec. 24, 1902." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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