

So singled out for praise by Mr. Ruskin, when I am not likely to see the plant itself again. "Come like shadow, so depart." That one year the echinoides was fairly abundant in one place, but the hieracoides growing a mile or two off was represented by one plant only. That was a homely thing - a vigorous weed which we could willingly spare. Mr. Ruskin speaks again of "these most exquisite botanical plates," i.e. of the Flora Londinensis.

Christmas
I received in due season a card from you and Mrs. Deane, for which I wish to thank you, but I will close now to answer Mrs. Deane's kind note.

Yours with kind regards
Maria L. Owen.

Springfield, Jan. 12-1906.

Dear Mr. Deane,

As you want to know about Dea. Samuel Chapin, I will begin with him. The statue is to commemorate one of the first settlers of this town, and given by the Deacon's descendants for their own glorification and for the adornment of the city; the donors would reverse the order of these two motives, but I think whether confessed to themselves or not, that is the rank which would be found in the depths of their giving hearts. The sculptor is St. Gaudens and the work is much admired. There is no portrait of Dea. Samuel; the costume of his time is well known I suppose, and accurately

followed here; for the head and
features I suppose the ^{artist} copied from
those individuals who, by common
consent, were "regular old Chaps"
"the very image" of their grandfathers
who again "looked like his 'gf' came
to life," and it would not take many
such steps or strides to get back to
the deacon himself. He is supposed
to be marching along to "meeting"
with sturdy gait, Bible in hand.

The Caspe region yields some-
thing new every season, and I sup-
pose it will indefinitely, for
even Nantucket does so. I know
what a valuable acquisition to your
herbarium the plants from that
region must be.

I have been reading Ruskin's
"Pursuings" lately, - not for the
first time, and today I came upon

the following mention of *Picris*
echinoides, which I think I told
you once was the most elegant
Composite in the shape of its flower
^{with its double involucre}
that I ever saw, though the pressed
specimen showed nothing of its grace-
Mr. Ruskin was speaking of the
"nobly engraved plates & executed
in the close of the last century
(the 18th was the last when he was
writing) for the 'Flora Danica' and
'Flora Londonensis'." He adds "the
latter is, in the most difficult por-
traiture of the larger plants, even the
more wonderful of the two" &c. &c.
Then in a note "See x x in the second
[volume, published in 1795] *Carduus*
tomentosus and *Picris echinoides*." I
fear that the *Flora Londonensis* is
not in our library, but I would
take some pains to look at a picture



Owen, Maria L. 1906. "Owen, Maria Louisa Jan. 12, 1906." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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