

Boston, Nov. 10th, 1875

My dear Sir,

I commenced a letter in September at North Conway, but was unexpectedly called to town, and have only recently become fairly settled for the winter. I am at No. 9 Beacon St., and shall be most happy to receive a visit, whenever you may chance to be in Boston, to finish the work in which we were engaged. My hours are from 11.30 to 2 p.m.

I congratulate you on your brilliant success in procuring aquatic plants, as shown by your letter of July 19th. I never went into boating and dredging, but fifty years ago looked carefully for aquatics in Essex County:

"*Zannichellia palustris*", I could never find.

"*Potamogeton natans*", with narrow immersed leaves and growing in rather deep water, I used to find.

"—— *Claytoni*", with broad elliptical floating leaves and growing in pools, I used to find.

"—— *amplifolius*", without floating leaves and the immersed ones broad, used to grow in Pleasant pond near the outlet, but has disappeared.

"—— *gramineus*", I used to find, localities not recollected.

"—— *praelongus*", unknown to me.

"—— *perfoliatus*", seen by myself only near Philadelphia, but by Henry Little near Boston.

"—— *Robbinsii*", unknown to me.

"*Vallisneria spiralis*", I could never find.

"*Isoetes*", I could never find fruit.

"*Chara*", I used to find two or three undetermined species.

What is the grass-leaved aquatic that fills the outlet of Pleasant pond all the way through the swamp?

Dr Gray quotes "Oakes catalogue". His catalogue would settle many doubtful points, and tend to show changes that have taken place. Oakes says in a letter, Essex County has been pretty thoroughly "ransacked" by him and myself.

The paper birch, I used to find in Gloucester, and I think in Wenham, perhaps in your locality.

My attention has recently been directed to Mourt's relation of the Landing at Plymouth, from his having borrowed Higgeson's account of the plants around Salem, pretending that at Plymouth although "in winter" there were growing around the landing-place

"sorrel, yarrow, carvel, brooklime, liverwort, watercresses, etc.":

"sorrell, brooklime, liverwort, carvell, and watercresses"

were found in 1630 by Higgeson around Salem (Hist. coll. i. p. 121):

"carvell" (chervil) is pretty clearly Osmorhiza longistylis, observed by myself in Paradise in the broken rocky place in front of Gen. Severeux's residence; perhaps the very spot where it was seen by Higgeson.

"brooklime", Veronica beccabunga, has been observed by myself in the cedar-margined outlet of Mineral-spring pond; and may have been seen there by Higgeson, especially as he describes the "giants battle-field" (the scattered boulders).

Higgeson also mentions "two kinds of flowers very sweet, which they say are good to make cordage" (Opopneum androsæmifolium, and the depressed form of A. cannabinum growing around Middleton pond and pointed out to me by Oakes).

Truly yours,

Charles Pickering

John Robinson Esq.

Salem, Mass.



Dickerson, Mahlon. 1875. "Pickering, Charles Nov. 10, 1875." *Charles Pickering letters* –.

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