

North Conway, July 15th, 1875-

Dear Sir,

I enclose a sketch from memory of Wenham Swamp, that may at least serve to indicate localities of plants.

Wolf Island is a lonely place, and with its surroundings (the extensive swamp and river-marsh) furnishes a test for distinguishing indigenous from imported plants. There is hardly more than one source of possible error:— rivers bring down seeds, and may transport those of imported plants into wild situations for development under favouring soil and climate.

The first colonists found our country covered with forest excepting salt-marshes, bogs, and a few river-marshes subject to overflow: salt-marshes in consequence were extravagantly prized, being about the only places affording feed for cattle. After making openings in the forest, the colonists began to sow grass-seeds, and thus introduced confusion into the flora of Essex County.

Phleum pratense seems an American grass, introduced into Europe. It grows in the wildest situations throughout New England; as far also as the Arctic Circle, occurring in Iceland (Hook.) and Lapland (Wats.), but I cannot find old European names. My grandfather used to cultivate it and call it "herd's grass."

Phalaris arundinacea is at least indigenous in America, like the preceding reaching the Arctic Circle. It is known to grow in Northern Europe, Siberia, and Japan.

Glyceria aquatica, common to Europe, seen by myself only in this river-marsh and in marshy ground near St. John N. B.

Echinochloa crus-galli is pretty clearly an American grass, introduced into Europe.

Panicum ensifolium Baldu., abounding in this river-marsh. Probably not known to Dr. Gray.

Agropyrum repens may prove an American grass: but belongs to dry ground.

Myriophyllum ambiguum var. limosum, on the muddy strand. I am not now sure that I have seen M. tenellum in company.

Potentilla Norvegica may prove an American species introduced into Scandinavia.

Sparganium simplex, growing about a dozen years ago at the outlet of Pleasant pond. The only time I ever saw it within the limits of Essex County.

Sparganium ramosum I used to find in Essex County (localities not remembered). Of late years I have seen it in the bog beyond Greenland N.H., also near Philadelphia.

Carex caelis, discovered by myself in the marshes around Wenham pond and along its outlet. Afterwards found by Bakes below the junction of this outlet with Ipswich river, also "in Danvers".

Carex Oederi (determined by English Botany) I used to find in the pasture-land of my grandfather's farm, clearly introduced. "*C. Oederi*" of Dewey and American botanists is a distinct indigenous species (not seen in Eastern Massachusetts) and its name should be changed.

Carex maritima, I found in a salt-marsh at Orne's Point, and do not feel sure that it will prove indigenous.

Carex proserpax, seemingly wild in the woods on Orne's Point. Afterwards found by Bakes in Ipswich.

Salicornia ambigua, as appears from one of Mr. Bakes' letters, was found by myself on "Cape Ann".

Chenopodium tenericum (*Salsola* of Michaux?). Not more than a foot high, growing in the wet salt-marsh and not in the sand, the stem simple or with few branches, root perennial.

Epilobium strictum, Muhl. (*C. molle*, Torr), once found in pasture-land on my grandfather's farm.

Trichophorum lineatum. Bakes in letter Sept. 6th, 1824, says "Your *Trichophorum* is *Scirpus lineatus* Mich".

Solidago squarrosa. Bakes in letter Feb. 20. 1828 says "I found last fall fine specimens of *Sol. squarrosa* in your locality." (This must have been in Essex County, but I do not remember where).

Gerardia purpurea of Eastern Massachusetts is probably distinct from that bearing the same name in our Middle States; observed around Philadelphia two feet high, with flowers twice as large.

Glauca maritima, in wet salt-marshes around Salem.

Rudbeckia hirta, an indigenous plant, has entered Essex County since I left in 1826. It was observed in Pennsylvania by Muhlenberg, by myself near Philadelphia, and is entered on my Catalogue (finished in 1837) as not North of Lat. 40°. How far the invasion is attributable to the removal of the forest, remains an open question.

I have found a list of 276 of the rarer plants of Essex County (made out before my visit to the White Mountains), which will aid materially in refreshing my memory.

On second thought, *Cardamine bellidifolia* may have been found on the White Mountains before the visit of Bakes and myself in 1825. *Saxifraga ovalis* was discovered by myself under dripping rocks at the bottom of the Grand Gulf.

I have a List of the plants growing on the Telford portion of the White Mountains, made out soon after our return, and will furnish a copy if you desire.

Very truly Yours,

Charles Pickering

to John Robinson Esq.

Salem, Mass.



Dickerson, Mahlon. 1875. "Pickering, Charles Jul. 15, 1875." *Charles Pickering letters* –.

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