

New York, Aug. 13th 1831.

Dear Sir,

A few days since I found lying on the table in my laboratory, your acceptable letter of the 11th inst., together with a parcel of interesting plants - for which be pleased to accept my thanks. Being confined to-day by an indisposition which prevents me from my duties at the medical College - but wh. does not incapacitate me altogether from light mental occupation, I have amused myself by looking over your specimens. The cryptogamia I must leave for examination in the Spring - but I think you have determined most of them correctly.

The fern wh. you name Aspid. Filix fem., is what I have always called A. asplenoides. It is probably A. Filix fem. of Pursh - & also the A. angustum of Muhlba.

A. cristatum of your parcel appears to be exactly what Dr. Hooker, in the Edin. Journal of Science, for Feb. 1822, has called A. Goldianum - after Mr. Goldie a Scotch botanist who visited this country some years ago. Hooker has given a fine figure of it in the Glenid. Jerns. filicum ... It must be the plant called A. Filix mas. by Pursh - but a distinct species from the European fern so called.

A. dilatatum seems to be identical with A. intermedium.

Mitella cordifolia, agrees exactly with what I have described under this name - of which I have suspected to be the same as M. nuda.

It must also be the *M. prostrata* of Michaux. I have never seen but two species of this genus (excluding *M. grandiflora* of Pursh which is the type of R. Brown's genus *Tellima*) among all the plants which have been sent to me from many parts of N. America. The figure in *Lam. ill.* t. 373 f. 3 has the leaves more acute & serrate than in any of any specimens - but his fig. 2. of the same plate is exactly one plant & the latter is referred by all authors (even by De Candolle in his last vol. (6th) of the *Prodr.*) to *M. rubra*.

You ask whether my *Trichum purpureum* is not identical with *Dracopis* *min* *Michaux* - you probably meant *Dracopis* *Michaux* of that author. It may be so - but his description is so imperfect that the matter cannot be settled without a reference to his herbarium. I hope to see that herb. myself before many months, when I expect to clear up a number of doubts relating to N. American Botany.

The specimens which you numbered, & which you desired me to examine appear to be as follows - (The leaves were in some instances not sufficiently advanced to develop their characters)

1. *Andropogon furcatus*
2. *Elymus arvensis*
3. *Knappia trifida*
4. *Panicum rubidum* - var -
5. an species not determined - don't seem to be any of those described in my book - but the leaves vary greatly.
6. *Poa horrida*
7. *Carex ornata* (young) & *C. scopulorum* & *Chytiscus* (young)
8. *C. stellulata* - scarcely distinct from *C. scopulorum*

It gives me great pleasure to learn that I am to be benefited by your future labors in botany. & I hope that I shall be able to assist you by the communication of such plants as are peculiar to this region, as well as of foreign specimens. At the present season I am much occupied - but my labors are ended early in the spring, when I shall take the earliest opportunity of sending you a collection of dried plants. In the mean time I beg you will accept a small parcel of pretty rare Swedish, Lapland & Norwegian plants put up for me by Prof. Barling of Stockholm. I have also added the *Syst. Algæ* of Agardh, a small work by one of the first Algologists of the day - containing all the species known in 1824. of the Dept. of Cryptogamia headed off - They shall be left in charge of Mr. J. Brown, 27 Beekman St. who, I hope, will be able to forward them to you in the course of the winter. I shall always be thankful for good specimens of the rarer plants of your neighborhood, as I need a large stock to keep my friends in such supplied.

I remain
Yours truly
D. D. Gray.

Dr. Asa Gray

Bridgewater, Orinda Co

New York.

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