

It is in reference to Heterodonta; and I
am perfectly confident that the injustice
you do me, is done unconsciously. But, if
men do such things innocently, so much
the more need, as it seems to me, that that
kind of misdoing should have its injustice
held up to view. It is so common with
American botanists that, I believe, no one thinks
it wrong; hence my determination to take,
before long, some opportunity of discussing it; other
opportunities will be given. The point, as far
as relates to your paper, is this: in the plant
in question, I discovered and published
certain characters, namely, the total inde-
hisence of the pod, and the nearly obsolete
partition. These are very important
contributions to the history of the plant.
If I named it as a new genus it was
on these two grounds, along with its
prostrate habit. These three characteristics
are entirely ignored by you; and that is ignoring
my whole stock of facts. My conclusion, that
it is one genus, you are now bound to. That
is unimportant. That you are unable to
second my view is not my affair at all.
I do think, however, that justice ^{to me} demands
the recognition of my facts, if facts they be.

Berkeley, 14 July, 1888.

Dear Mr. Watson—

I am under obliga-
tions to you for a letter, and a copy of
your latest "Contributions", which letter I
had already taken measures to procure
as soon as I had learned that it was
extant and had not been sent me by
the author. I think I ought to
say further, in reference to the two specimens
I sent before, that I had no idea they
would reach you too late to be brought
into comparison with the Pringle specimens
before your publishing. I assumed that
Pringle's and Palmer's plants would be printed
by you, in our aid the same "Contributions"
and I knew that you had not yet come
to the naming of Palmer's; I was still
postponing the printing of anything in
relation to Palmer's set (which I have
with full notes), in deference to you.
But your paper on Pringle's collection, it

now appears, had been three weeks in
print when my letter and specimens
reached you; and so I was too late.

You lay upon me all the
responsibility for that lack of cordiality
which has existed between us; and that
I judge to be wrong, yet, am not
going to open a private controversy, by
attempting to write a word in my own
defense, or by making detailed com-
-plaint. Your time and your energies,
and mine too, may be more profitably
occupied.

I do not regret having opened
up a line of criticism of the doings of
botanists here and there. I began that
because I thought the interests of the
cause loudly called for it. I shall
no doubt continue the work, difficult
and unpleasant though it be. But I
do regret some of my own too frequent
phrases; needlessly, and, worst than
that, heartfully irritating expressions.
My only apology would be that I am

of strong sympathies, and not careful
about the weapons I may employ, when
a sense of duty has impelled me to undertake
the defense of a weaker party.

May be I shall, hereafter, be able
to maintain the better spirit in which
I have criticized, as you will see, the
Torrey Club Catalogue.

I did not send these papers before,
because I did not feel at all confident
they would gain a perusal or be other-
than unwelcome. Twice before this
year, I had to ask for your "Contributions"
before I got them; hence my judgment
that it would be forcing things upon you, if
I sent.

In some remarks, now in manu-
-script, on your "Contr. xv", (of which I had
borrowed a copy) I have made one point in
my own defense, which I shall now
call your attention to, and then erase it
from the printer's copy. It will be the
better way, since you allow me to write.



Greene, Edward Lee. 1888. "Greene, Edward L. July 14, 1888 [to S. Watson]."
Edward Lee Greene letters to Asa Gray

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