

42 Shepard St.,  
Cambridge, Mass.,

13 Jan. 1899.

Dear Mr. Davenport:

It was right kind  
of you to offer the inclosed  
manuscript to Rhodora and  
it was carefully considered  
at a meeting of the Editorial  
board last evening, but  
while we are all heartily in  
sympathy with you in the  
matter you present, it seems  
best to us while our journal  
is young and just getting  
established, to avoid very  
carefully subject matter which  
would be regarded as con-  
troversial. The wisdom of

to use weapons which we as self-respecting mortals could not.

I think I can fully realize how aggravating Prof. Underwood's statements are, but would insist as much better if you desire to publish on the subject, to send, say to the Fern Bulletin or Plant World a simple quotation of the exact size and nature, say a brief statement of the exact size and nature of the Sanborn Herbarium? Indeed, if this could come from some official or curator of the Horticultural Society it would relieve you of some awkwardness in the matter.

I am so sorry to hear that you have the grippe. I have just gotten up from it myself. My friends all counsel me to stay in doors as long as the doctor said and then so much longer as possible, which I am inclined to think was good advice.

With kind regards and best wishes for your speedy recovery, I am  
Very respectfully yours,

V. L. Robinson.

I hope, when you are well enough, you will send us some form-note for Rhodora, for instance regarding the occurrence of Asplenium ~~obovatum~~ <sup>obovoides</sup> in Vermont.

such a course will, I am sure, commend itself to you.

In regard to the publication of your article elsewhere in its present form, I would say that we all feel afraid that it would arouse a controversy which would very likely be quite disagreeable for you — not at all because you would not have the truth and right upon your side but simply because your opponents might descend to methods and invective, to which you as a gentleman would not wish to reply.

I will remember the wisdom of the late Prof. Eaton when I urged <sup>him</sup> to print some protest against Greene's plagiarizing from the Botany of California. He told me very definitely that it was worse than useless to begin a public controversy with those who would not hesitate



Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln. 1899. "Robinson, B.L. Jan 13, 1899." *George Edward Davenport correspondence* –.

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