

Dawson N.Y. 12. 3-78.

H

Mr. Geo. E. Davenport.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for the spec.  
of ferns you send me in  
return of Potyzhimin samples.  
The german translation of  
your very interesting article  
on the vernation of Potyzhimin  
has not reached me yet - might  
take quite a while yet, as  
there is too much "materia" for  
printing our periodicals.  
As soon as published, I will  
send you my number, as there  
can not be purchased other ones.  
Will you be kind enough to  
have "Mun's Catalogue" send  
to me by one of your salesman.

Many botanists use it  
for exchanges & I know nothing  
about getting it, but suppose  
it has been printed in Boston.  
The article on '*Aspid. spinulosum*'  
is very welcome. As soon as  
time permits I shall study it.  
Enclosed I send a specimen  
of it as var. elevatum A. Br.  
synon. *Callipteris Wilsoni*  
collected years ago in the botan.  
garden of Munster Germany.  
What you think of it?

Yours truly

J. W. Wille.

St. Peter's Church  
Brooklyn N.Y.

7  
Owego N. Y. 11. 5. 78.  
St. Peter's Church.

Mr. Geo. E. Deavenport.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find specimens  
of *Botrydium simplex* of this  
locality. I am very glad to contribute  
some thing for science sake and do  
not want any thing in return. But  
if however you could provide for me  
a species of "*Asplen. ebrioides*" R. B. Kott.  
*Aspidium fragrans* Swartz, *Woodia Oregona*  
D. C. Eaton, *Lycopodium clopecuoides* L.,  
I would be very glad to receive either  
of them, as they are not in my herbarium.  
With many kind regards and my best  
wishes for your generous undertaking  
I am yours Respectfully

J. H. Wirbbe Dr. Phil.  
over!

Your splendid article about *Wortzschium*<sup>o</sup>  
in last year's Bulletin I have trans-  
lated into German and published in  
the *German Botanical Gazette*.

K

Wellesley Hills, Mass.,

Oct. 25, 1905.

Mr. George E. Davenport,  
Medford, Mass.,

Dear Mr. Davenport,

My address will be as  
above till about Nov. 15, after  
that it will be Pat Antonio,  
Jamaica, till possibly June 15.

Letters to Wellesley Hills after  
Nov. 15 would be forwarded.

Thanking you for your kind as-  
sistance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Alex E. Wight.

K

Lancaster Mass.July 15<sup>th</sup>. 1880.

Mr. Geo. E. Dougl. Esq.

I will send by the same mail as this letter a small package of Ferns. May I trouble you to answer some questions in regard to them? I shall be very much obliged to you for doing so. These Ferns have been sent me, some with the names and some without, but I am not sure about them. 1<sup>st</sup> Aspidium aculeatum - var. angulare - from California. Neither my check-list nor your Herbarium Catalogue give such a variety. Is it correct? I send also an Aspidium aculeatum<sup>1 1/2"</sup> which came from the Sandwich Islands. Is that the typical form or some other variety? It seems small for the

former, comparing it with some  
of the varieties.

2: The paper marked 2: contains  
what seems to be species of *Pellaea*,  
perhaps all of one kind. I have  
no way of identifying them at all  
satisfactorily. One resembles  
*Pellaea tenuifolia*, of which I have  
specimens from the Sandwich  
Islands, but I doubt about its  
being that, really.

3: The paper marked 3: has, first,  
what I feel quite sure is *Trichomanes*  
*radicans*. ~~parts~~ There on the  
second page, <sup>(for caption)</sup> I do not know.

I hope that I am not asking  
too great a favor of you. Please  
do not answer until it is quite  
convenient for you to do so.

I have examined quite carefully  
the Flora in the vicinity of my old  
residence, Farmington - Conn.

You may be interested to know that *Comptonia*  
only 7 feet tall, 1 inch - grows there on Hay, rather quite  
abundantly in one locality. Also *Phytolopsis*  
*Commersonia*, *Hibiscus* - and by garden *Palmetum*, *Scorpi-*  
It is a very fine *Polium* of region - the leaves very  
containing *obtuse*, *ovate* of leaf, *very* *irregular*,  
not *measured* and dry, *small* *green* *above* *and* *the*  
*large* *leaves*. It is *very* *of* *the* *leaves* *of* *unusually*  
by some on more *opposite* of *dry* *in* *than* *I* *and*  
*small* *opposite* *small* *one* *for* *the* *fruits*,  
My address is *Main* *St.* *Hill* *and* *Lowell* - *Lowell*  
Mass.

Yrs. respectfully.

Charles D. Hillard.

NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.

K  
Boston, June 11, 1896.

Mr. G. E. Davenport.

Dear Sir:-

At the last meeting of the New England Botanical Club the Committee on the Herbarium reported that the sum of \$300. was requisite to furnish the room at its disposal in the University Museum, and to provide the necessary supplies for immediate use. The report of the Committee was accepted unanimously by the Club and the Treasurer was authorized to take the necessary steps to raise the amount required.

I am happy to state that a substantial amount has already been pledged, so that the establishment of the Herbarium is assured provided those members of the Club who have not yet subscribed give the undertaking a reasonable support. Will you kindly send to the Treasurer such sum as you are willing and able to devote to this object? It is hoped that everyone will make some contribution however small.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Respectfully yours,

Frederic F. Williams, Treas.  
41 Franklin St.  
Boston



Lousville Ky

Dec 30

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I had a visit from my friend Mr. Schmidt last evening, he had just arrived. I was glad to meet you. Mr. Schmidt is a first rate fellow. He has had a long holiday and I think he has enjoyed it well. You know ~~the~~ can afford it. I have got to work again and busy preparing goods for the annual Exposition, it is a kind of a bore. But it seems we have to make a show.

I received a Salem paper to day, complimentary to me as a metal worker, well I suppose I have got to stand all that flattery. I believe the book has been a success after all. But the sales are rather limited. By the way I received your friend John Robinsons *Servants Their Homes & Ours*. I have not read it carefully yet. The first impression I am sorry to say was disappointed. It seems to have been got up in a hurry and without system. How is it that professional

Book maker and Publishers, always manage to get the plates in a place they have not business, for instance the plate "fern structure, inserted in the article Fern literature, Plate is a very poor wood cut ~~the~~ drawing looks very mechanical like, in fact I think all the illustrations are poor, The book has the appearance as if it was got up to sell but I have no doubt but what it will be useful to those who are interested in the cultivation of ferns, especially exotics, quite a number of books pertaining to that are published in England, I saw one last week, The Fern Paradise (Heath), this book was gotten up very handsomely, The first moment of spare time I have I will go over Mr Robinson's book carefully, I had a letter from Mrs. Richards, Bradford a few days ago, she said she would review my Ferns for the local paper, she seemed interested in the work, she told me she paid a visit to Mr Robinson and saw through his Green House, she is perfectly delighted, You may ~~not~~ think that I ought not to talk that way about Mr Robinson's book, but I am only saying what I think, I ~~was~~ ~~very~~ much

obliged to you for your criticisms when I was preparing my book, and I will only be too glad to have you tell me very plainly any other mistakes you have noticed, Now about my trips to the mountains, I found the *C. vestita* quite plentiful and fair specimens, I also found *A. R. M. muric*, this fern is very rare in N.Y. I do not know of any one who has found it but myself, I enclose you an *A. splensin* what is it, is it *parvulum*, The small fronds looks a little like Bradley's, I have no description of *A. parvulum*, Prof. Gray in The Amer. Journ. of Sci. & Art. says that he thinks that I must have the *parvulum* from my remarks on *ebonum*, but if this is the *parvulum* I never could make such a mistake, This is a well marked species I found it growing on an exposed high ridge of sand stone, I also found small specimens of *ebonum* ~~Whon tonen~~, *Permetopecten* and *C. vestita* in the same place, I may make a few notes for The Bulletin or The Gazette, I sent a long article to the New York Tribune on my recent trips I hope they will publish it, I described a "Scene in the Mountains" It will give you an insight into these

poor ignorant people live.

I received a package of over 100 specimens from Richter Lajos (Hungary) a few days ago I have not had time to examine them yet but I have made up my mind to collect nothing but ferns, have given up the idea of making a general herbarium. I will willingly send the specimens to you or any of your botanical friends if they remit me the expesage or there that was \$2.40 I believe. The plants are in good order and all correctly named, I sent him a number of specimens, this is his exchange,

I believe I have written plenty now. Dr Schmidt told me about your great sorrow about the death of your boy.

I hope you are now recovered from your sickness and that all the rest of your family is enjoying good health.

Yours friend

John Williams

I send you a small obolus and what I call  
Lambton, but in reading a son description of Brodiaea  
it seem to agree with it. I have some Brodiaea that are  
however different. Write soon.

reminded all this, but it seems  
this is the regular publishers  
way.

Best wishes to your wife  
and family.

Yours Sincerely & Affectionately  
J. W. Williamson

Louisville, Ky  
June 24,

My Dear Mr. Ravenel -

Your letter & specimens  
received. Many thanks, I was very  
sorry to hear of the death of  
your father. I have troubled  
you I am afraid a little too much  
but I am anxious to get my  
work as nearly perfect as I can  
and I have no one ~~here~~  
to ask a question at

You say you think I have not  
managed the Woodcutting to suit  
you. I thought that was a pretty  
good plate, it is very like the  
specimen I received from  
Mr. Redfield, and to get these

large plants on such a small  
page is very trying, however I  
am very glad of any criticisms you  
make. I have no doubt but  
what you will find several of  
the 65 or 67 that you will not  
admire, I am well pleased with  
Mr. Harsens work, he is not  
afraid to make bold strokes with  
his pencil, but I think he has  
taken a little more liberty with  
the Dicksonia punctilobula  
than I would have cared to do  
especially for a scientific work.

I enclose you a print of  
A. spinulosum one that you sent  
but I do not like it, if I  
had made the under side a shade  
lighter the effect would have  
been better, you tell me what  
you think of it, the A. Bortii  
is sketch'd on the plate.

I will etch that in a few days  
I have about concluded to accept  
your A. Americanum - and Bortii  
and keep out the A. spinulosum.  
About the A. aculeatum,  
I of course intended the Var. Braunii  
and the naming of the Woodwardia's  
this was caused by the plate  
getting in the wrong envelope  
when I sent them to the engraver  
& got them numbered, but I will  
let see that the descriptions are all right,  
I was up in the mountains last  
Sunday but did not  
succeed very well, I have written  
my experience to Mr. Peabody  
he may show you the letter,  
I see Prof. Eaton has dedicated  
his work to Gray, and instead  
of 30 parts we have to have 17  
this seems to me to be very unbusiness  
like, a little forethought would

Illustrations. I hope he will not  
give any miniature portraits.

I think my plan of giving one  
part full size is much better.  
That giving a reduced figure  
I mentioned that to Prof Eaton  
once, but the very next number  
contained the Almonds.

I will be glad to hear  
from you at any time.

By the way I notice you have  
mentioned in your catalogue  
that you propose setting out  
"Ferns of New England".

Remember me kindly  
to your family.

Yours Sincere  
Friend

Wm Williams

Louisville, Ky —

My Dear Mr. Davis —

Your Postal card I received  
a few days ago informing me of your family  
troubles. I sympathize with you very  
much. I earnestly hope the health  
(one of the greatest blessings) will soon  
be restored to you and all your family,  
calling at the Post Office this morning  
I received your letter, and I concluded  
to answer it at once because my correspond-  
accumulates & I might leave it for  
too long. I am very busy with Fern  
Etching. I will send you a number  
of the plates in a few days for your  
criticisms. I am not getting on as fast  
as I would like. having a good deal  
of head work with my plates, and  
accid, it is very troublesome when you

Have worked several nights on a plate  
and have to do it all over again, first  
because some little thing went wrong  
in the manipulation; The temperature  
is likely to be more regular now, & I  
think I will be more fortunate.

If not too much trouble will you send  
me a good Characteristic specimen of  
*Crypograsme acrostichoides* P. Br.

I believe I have every thing else, &  
Mr. Brett sent me a nice lot of  
specimens from Canada.

I am going through your Catalogue  
and will arrange them in the  
same manner. I want you to  
straighten me up on the *Aspidium*  
but no hurry yet.

I have not had time to write a  
notice of your Catalogue yet  
but will do so. My friends here  
who subscribed to it are well  
pleased. Prof. Willberger is now

making a thorough search for  
*Ebenia*. I ought to find it. —  
You ought to send one of your Catalogues  
to the New York Nation. I was astonished  
to find the number of enquiries  
after the Catalogue, from the notice  
this paper gave me.

Lippincott, Scribner, and  
Dodd read & Co. all sent for  
specimen copies. It is just possible  
I may sell more than I expect  
people do not care about subscribing  
to any work (especially high price)  
until they see it. I do not blame them.  
I have enough to justify me to go on.  
You say you intend receiving my  
terms by, from a different  
stand-point from any you have  
seen. I am at a loss to understand  
but I can afford to wait until you  
are ready. I am beginning to be  
anxious to see Mr. Huxon's fern

Louisville 13

June 10

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your kind letter reached me this afternoon, I expected I would have had a bound copy to send you by this time, but I will have to wait a few days yet. I have a good idea how my book is going to look now, I have a copy before me partly bound, cut and trimmed, it looks very well. I think you will be pleased when you see it it is so richly illustrated, the Polytrichoides looks better in the book than separate. I rather like it it is different from any of the others, but in turning over the pages, it strikes you as being worthy of a second look. The *A. horeborescense*, is I think the finest illustration I have, I never liked it, & I tried to touch it up, and spoiled it, I am sorry I did not make another one, The *C. Claytoniana* is also rather indifferent, but it is too late now, if ever a second edition should see the light I will have these two removed, and others of a more respectable appearance put in their place. I received a prospectus from Cassin of Mr. Robinson's "Ferns in Their Homes & over's" Tell Mrs. Robinson, I will exchange <sup>one copy</sup> with him. I want to make a good collection of books of this nature, Botanical books are the only kind I can afford to buy now, My other reading I get up



out of the library

I shall not fail to send copies of my book to the papers you mention. I of course will send to the Naturalist, Silliman's Journal, Nature, Harper, Scrivener, &c. &c.

You are very kind in offering to write a few notices. I appreciate this very much. The Local Press has favored me many favors, and I think will give me a good send off.

I will send you our Evening Post, next week it will contain a very elaborate Review, by a gentleman who is a thorough Art student, and understands enough about botany to make it interesting. He is one of my best friends, and of course may be somewhat prejudiced in my favor.

I received the Botanical Gazette, with your notice it was very complimentary. I think more than what I deserved. I may tell you the papers here accept it in full. I took the liberty to quote part of your notice, on the P.O. Card, I know the value of your judgment in matters of this kind, and this little extract will help me a great deal. I thought you would have no objections. This letter Mr. D. looks very much like a fellow blowing his own horn, but to tell you the truth if I leave the pushing and advertising to my publisher I will fare badly. I have had to watch the whole affair from beginning to end very closely, they certainly have made a pretty piece of work

but not without a good deal of hammering,  
will you be kind enough to send me the notices  
you make on any others you see. I will see all the  
Magazines myself at the library.

I will get at the etchings I promised you  
very soon now, and will obey your instructions  
about endorsement, I sometimes wonder if you  
can read my hand, I have such a scrawl,  
I think writing ought to be done away with and  
some other method invented, it takes so much time  
I am glad you are willing to keep up the correspond-  
ence. I intend to make notes this season, but I  
have so great difficulty in getting away from business,  
I have made some drawings of the Aspiculus  
you sent me, I noticed the glandular hair in  
the inclusion, I think a series of plates illustrating  
all the forms & varieties of Spinosaurus would be of  
some value. I did not allude to this character in  
my ~~own~~ description, I got bewildered over the whole  
subject, after reading Zuercher, Hooker & others on the  
subject. I concluded just to let it go.

Now Dr. Davenport I want you to do me a  
favor, can you give me the necessary information  
where I can get good etching material, such as  
ink, paper, oil, &c. some establishment that  
furnishes printer material probably would be the place  
If I had the address of a good Boston house  
I would write thus, I want the best of every thing

I am going to print off several sets as I told you before. If I of course want them to look as well as possible.

After this job is off my hands I will be looking around for something else. I have three or four plans, whether to stick to ferns, or try flowers. Flowers are very fascinating, their graceful curves and diversity of forms, are just my delight, but I think it is my duty to give my attention to ferns, at least for several years. I am comparatively young and in good health, and hope to be of some service to my fellow-men, at least do something to help along the cause

of truth.

Yours respectfully  
John H. Williams

Louisville Ky

April 9.

My Dear Mr. Sargent

I send you a few more  
etchings. The Botrychium I suppose is the  
var obliquum. This is the common form  
found here. The moment I saw your  
specimen I recognized the difference at  
once. The *A. thelypteris* and *A. noveboracensis*  
I also send. These ferns are so much alike  
especially in form of the pinnule. That it  
is difficult to express their character by  
the illustration. You see I have made the  
one more delicate than the other. I am pretty  
well pleased with the *Thelypteris*. I think I  
have succeeded in getting the texture of this fern.

I had a letter from Prof Gray this  
morning; he is the critic for the Nation  
I am not so much afraid now, I will send  
him some of my last etching, and probably a  
complete set, as I intend to give you <sup>the same</sup>,  
I am getting on pretty well, and I think  
the publisher is getting to spread himself  
however I will not say so much.

Mr Townsend, I know you are busy and  
I hope I am not boring you to much.

In haste

J. Williamson

I also send Fertilization plate

Fig 425 from Sachs the others from Watson

63 Market St

Journell

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your P.O. card received

I had forgot about eboum and  
eboum. I will send them to you  
if you must have them. I  
collected the specimens, they were sent me  
by Prof West. I had a letter from  
him to the effect that

he took over, he collected them  
at Cumberland Gap. I was at that  
time they were very thin. He also  
says in his letter that he possibly may  
get some more specimens of eboum  
next season. About the particular  
I cannot understand what has come over  
it. I know now I did not send it  
but where it is I cannot say. I had  
it carefully sealed up in my envelope  
& marked. I was particularly anxious  
that you should see it because I  
actually believe it was the Barometer  
the specimens were very small.

It may turn up - but I have so many  
irons in the fire. That I forget  
sometimes, I try to do too much of  
business -

Now have you read the terrible  
 onslaught I have received from  
Dec. Scribner - This is the first real  
adverse criticism my book has re-  
ceived. Have you any idea who wrote  
it. I have no fault to find with  
one criticizing my work, just as soon  
as they please, but I certainly do  
want my critics to point out  
definitely ~~the~~ where my work fails.  
He seems to confine all his remarks  
to the selection & treatment of fertilizers  
The Cultivation & Classification  
seems to please him, but because I  
did not give an elaborate <sup>article</sup> ~~one~~  
fertilizer, <sup>specially</sup>, he says my  
matter put out -  
I am aware (I have mentioned the  
fact to you) that the fertilizer article  
might have been fuller -  
but when I wrote it, I gave it

attention as it ought to have, would  
require too much space & time -  
therefore I concluded to devote that space  
to Classification & analytical key -  
But Mr. Davenport I did not like  
Mr. Critic to make me say, something  
I certainly did not say -

In speaking about the fertilization  
of eggs. I quote from his review

1) The wide distinction between species &  
such is not made just at all & the  
species are most unhelpfully denominated  
the organs of fertilization &c -

I may possibly <sup>have</sup> made some statement  
in a general kind of way & about  
the organs of fertilization being so  
situated on the back of the head -  
but in speaking of fertilization proper  
I distinctly say and in my own  
words that "The prothallus may be  
compared to a flower, since it  
contains the fertilizing organs."

Anthemida & arachnoidi, 1)

When you have a little space time



I want you to look over this —  
and Mr Davenport without the  
least objection I do believe the  
illustration of the prothalles fig 2  
is <sup>as</sup> correct & true to nature as any  
illustration that was ever made  
I have compared quite a number  
and they are nothing but flat  
meaningless deceits.

It is strange the Reviewer never  
mentions a word about the  
illustration.

The rest of his criticism is to  
imagine & infer, & takes  
any notice of it.

Yours truly

John W. Brown

This I believe is a constant Character,  
every specimen I examined showed  
this conclusively. The var. had the  
hair as constant, as the type was  
without them, I have a bottleful  
of pieces of fruit preserved in alcohol,  
decoloured of course, I can pick out the  
type from the var. at a glance.

I will have them mounted and probably  
stained, I have a young friend that  
does excellent work.

The next point is the Veining

If any one will examine 20 or ~~200~~ specimens,  
of either the type or var, he will at  
once see the difference, The var. has

The fruit vein running distinctly through  
and generally swelling toward the apex  
of the vein. The type in well fruited  
specimens distinctly stops at the point  
of the fruit dot, looking as if the fruit dot  
was borne on the end of the vein,

Some specimens I noticed were poorly  
fruited these showed the vein projecting  
a very little, but then it tapered to a

## Aspidium Speciosum, Swartz

I found the typical form of this  
fern last summer growing in a  
rather sandy soil, in Otterham Co  
about twelve miles from Louisvillo,  
The Geological character of the section  
that is the projecting rocks, and bed of  
Creeks is pure lime stone, but this  
little patch of woods, seemed to be  
very sandy, and in fact the place  
has a local name of Sand-hill,  
Two other *Aspidiums* I found associated  
with this form, *A. acrostichoides*, and  
*A. noveboracense*. The *A. thelypteris*  
grows in a Marsh about 200 yds  
from the edge of the wood, and in this  
Marsh I also found two plants of  
*A. cristatum*, the latter being very  
rare from my experience in Kentucky

I mention the locality, because I believe it is significant.

The first impression I had of this fern when I saw it growing, was that it seemed different from the common variety. The color, the soft appearance of the whole plant and the mode of growth impressed me as being very different, although if my attention had not been drawn more particularly to this plant by your investigations.

I might have concluded that the situation and other surroundings ~~would~~ account for the difference.

As far as I could see, the plants were very scarce I only <sup>counted</sup> ~~found~~ about 50. If they were confined within a radius of 100 yds. from my experience the bar is not found within 100 miles of this locality, and that in a pure Sandstone region.

Just remember I send you a

specimen of this plant and your pronounced it a true *Spencelosei*. I was very busy then and had no time to make a thorough examination, and concluded to adopt the old name for the variety. Thus you remember all about.

Since then I have made some examination comparing the two plants. The bar however, I may say grows very abundantly in Grayson, Buchanan & Estill. in fact throughout all the mountain regions of Kentucky, especially the Sand Stone. This fern grows luxuriantly. Not at all straggling, but forming a beautiful Crown of fronds.

Now as regards the microscopic character of the two plants, I have nothing new to add. I am willing to endorse every thing you have said.

This is, first, in regard to the glandular hairs situated on the underside

joint, the very opposite of swelling  
as is shown in the other,

These then are the few observations  
I have made, whether the locality or  
soil has anything to do with it I  
cannot say, I will have here  
twice this season and will make  
an effort to explore new fields  
and if I can learn anything  
further, you will be welcome to  
the knowledge, It is unnecessary  
for me to say anything about the  
form of the plants, then you have  
already discussed,

I went into this examination with the  
intention of giving you the result  
whether it corroborated with your  
investigation or not.

I am anxious now to know what  
you are doing towards the new work

I have been lazy, at least I have  
these very little series fern  
Etchings, was finished. I have somewhere  
about 16 copies on hand yet, Mr Grey  
has not sent for his, but don't say any  
more about it. I don't do to press  
this matter, the book is an expensive  
one and I don't wonder if people  
not buying it, however I am pretty  
near square with my publisher,  
How do you think a collection of  
Orchids would do, Etching and description  
I used to be very fond of this class of plants  
I am going to ~~study~~ make some studies  
of wild flowers this summer  
The must be exquisitely etched, the lack  
of color must be made up in artistic drawing  
however this is only a notion, I have it  
present, I hope you are keeping  
better now, I must see and try  
if I can get your unbound copy of  
Fern Etchings, ready, will be glad to  
see you Keep from your  
own record

Louisville Ky

Sept 19

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter received  
I thank you for showing the book to  
Mr Lacriat. I really do not know  
what to do about this. Mr L.  
wrote me asking how many copies  
I had the descriptions printed,  
and what I would take for the entire  
lot, now how I stand at present  
in this. I had descriptions printed  
for 100 copies, thinking that would be  
the limit of the sale. It would not  
pay to electrotype the book, the  
so few copies likely to be needed,  
I only printed plates for 25 copies.  
I had to be careful about this, the  
publisher not willing to risk a cent,  
The 25 copies are sold and I have orders  
now for 8 more, Dodd Mead & Co of

New York wrote me they would  
order in a few weeks but they could  
not tell exactly how many. The  
same with Robert Clarke & Co. of Ann-  
Arbor has sent for specimen copy  
I could not furnish it.

I think I could let Esler and  
Laurind have 25 copies, but I fear  
they will want too much discount  
if possible I would like to make  
a little myself. I worked pretty  
hard and had some expense.

You are correct about holding  
back the Transcript notices.  
These things have all to be managed in  
a business way.

I will print 50 copies and will  
add *Adiantum Capillaris venosum* and  
probably *C. montana*. The other corrections  
will be attended to, what do you  
think about *Golbicanum*.

I am anxious to see the Nation  
notice. I am almost sure Prof  
Eaton will be the reviewer  
and I think it will be a kind of  
half-praise, tempered with a few  
remarks about the large ferns -  
but you know I can't say a word.  
I had a letter this morning from  
my son, correspondent, he  
gives me the particulars about the  
*Scolopendrium* locality and has  
promised me good specimens -  
I will serve for you what I can -  
I will make a note for the Survey  
Bulletin. The other ferns he sent  
me, but all poor specimens, were  
*Cheilanthes tomentosa*, *C. vestita*  
*C. Oldhamensis*, *Woodwardia*, like  
species, *A. Bradleyi*, *A. parvula*  
~~See~~ a few others but more common.  
Anything new I will report -  
Your sincere friend  
Wm. Williams

Louisville Ky.

My Dear Mr Davenport

I enclose you an etching of  
Aspidium Fragrans, Do you think it is  
all right, It is very like the specimen  
I copied from, one of Mr. Hoyle's  
drying. (I also enclose a pencil).  
It seems to me that the veins  
are rather narrow, and contracted like  
this I want to use as my specimen copy  
and of course want it perfect.

Please give me your opinion

I have received 12 D 13 of Eaton fern of N.G. - they are much  
better than the last, but why does the artist use so many  
stiff lines, I had a letter from Mr. I. Warren Morrill  
and he thinks my Aspidium is faulty, he thinks  
I have made it a little too strong and vigorous in  
growth, he says it is a delicate & graceful fern.

I examined quite a number and selected what I thought  
was the most characteristic. I am very glad to get  
criticisms from my friends and never fall out with any  
one, all I want is to have my work right.

Now Mr Davenport I want to tell you something  
that I think you will be glad to hear.



a few days ago  
I just received, a most charming letter from  
Philip Gilbert Warrington. He is a great  
favourite of mine, I have read quite a number of  
his books, and of course studied his Etchers  
& Etchings He talks upon art subjects better  
than any one I know. I sent him a  
copy of my ferns as Editor of the Portfolio  
I also went a few times telling him what I  
was doing in a humble way. He writes a  
long complimentary letter, and advised me  
to etch the common wild flowers, stating that it  
would be advancing the science of Botany  
If I presented them in such a manner as I  
have illustrated the ferns, This you know is not  
practical the field is too wide and time is too  
short I am going to stick to ferns.

I spent a pleasant evening last week with Edward  
King corresponded for your Boston Journal, and  
New York Evening Post. He is on a visit to the  
Southern County taking notes.

Drop me a line even you have time I  
do not want to encroach to much

Your sincere

Friend John Williams

figure, whether natural size or enlarged,  
 The generic Characters I of course  
 will be able to manage myself  
 I want to make all my studies  
 original, it will be slow work,  
 but I suppose we have plenty of  
 time. About placing the illustration  
 in the body of the text it is not  
 practical except by wood engraving  
 and I cannot do that, and to get  
 it done would be beyond the reach  
 of my pocket. Photogravure is practical  
 I believe, but that would cost on an  
 average \$10.00 a plate, so that is  
 out of the question. I must resort  
 to my old plan of Etching,  
 I do not know the exact size  
 of Species Filemin, send that  
 (I mean the size of page) and what you

definitely ~~as to~~ I can be thinking  
over the matter.

I think you did perfectly right  
in refusing to let Mr Lefsetts  
Correspondent have your Botrychium  
notes. I have to do all my  
digging out myself. and so have you  
His gentlemen can do the same.

Now what I would suggest is this  
Let us get the work all completed  
and a proof of every plate taken  
before we say a word about publication  
Send it then to some good responsible  
house and see what they will charge  
to do the work, or see what they  
will give for the work including  
my original plates. They may  
not take it in a gift, because  
I may tell you again. "Mighty little"

Money in printing fern books:

a very good plan would be after knowing the exact cost of the work ready to mail, we could issue circulars with a specimen plate asking for subscribers.

I think I would undertake this risk, However we can talk about that afterwards.

Let me know as soon as you can what you want me to begin on first, I would like to do some real good work on that book and I believe your reputation as a Botanist and more particularly as a Pterologist will induce the fern loving public to buy freely I hope so, I have been thinking

quite frequently I late to  
 get out another Ed of Fermat  
 by - throwing out the poor plates  
 and substituting good ones -  
 but it is only a local <sup>serm</sup> flier  
 and I do not know whether it would  
 justify me or not. I could do it  
 at little expense. The book was stereotyped,  
 there are not many left  
 but the sale is slow now -

I shall be glad to hear from  
 you. Remember me to Mr. Heppinson  
 if you should see him -  
 and compliments to your  
 family.

Your Sincere Friend  
 John Williamson

*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, possibly including a date and address.]*

My Dear Vancouver

I send you one or two pounds  
of *A. Spinulosum*. I collected it this  
at the place where I got  
the other plants last season. They  
seem to be spreading & have examined  
a few pounds & I find them the  
typical *A. Spinulosum*. I certainly  
think you will make a good  
plant especially in the inclusion  
and to one who watches carefully  
the texture seems different from  
the variety. I am looking for  
your long promised letter.  
but I suppose you have a many  
things to do. I have not been  
away anywhere this season. must  
stick to business. Write soon.

Yours sincere friend!

Wm. Pitt Rivers

Sausville - 17

I must congratulate you on your very critical eye. If you look again at the *Urodia* Etching you will notice an unfinished pinnac. The one you refer to when I said 26 the drawing on the plate. I of course drew all my centre lines. The two lower pinnac of this frond was forgotten. I did not notice it until I had a proof taken. I may complete it yet. but it is a little risky. By the way I had a charming letter this morning from your friend Mr Higginson. he is very enthusiastic over the plates. I hope every body will be as well satisfied. I find I have no description for *C. bulbosum*

Your friend  
I.M.



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER.



Mr. George E. Davenport  
& Hamilton Place  
Boston  
Mass.



1  
1  
Lanswell 1<sup>st</sup>

Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

I received your letter this morning and answer it at once. I rather suspected <sup>Miss Richards</sup> was not the most capable person in New England to get up any kind of a Fern Book, she however is very modest about it, and lays no claims to having a scientific knowledge of the subject, I will quote from her letter so you must not judge of her too sever. "My plan for the fern leaves was, to have two or three pages of text describing the ferns in a simple unscientific way with plates accompanying, similar to Beautiful Ferns published in London by Groombridge & Sons, they have described and represented ten ferns enclosed in a paper case price 50 cents Mr Lockwood says that the tract object to the paper case. . . . . I thought if twelve or eighteen of our most beautiful New England ferns could be illustrated in this way and sold for a moderate price it would benefit both publisher and purchaser" The Fern says that she heard of you going to write a book on New England ferns, and it would

be so faithfully done than there would be no need or place for anything else, I merely write this to let you know the exact situation, I have not written <sup>her</sup> yet, but will do so to-morrow, I of course would never think for a moment to making any illustration for her, whether you intended doing anything or not I would have consulted with you first any how, Since this question has been opened I would like to make a suggestion, from nearly all the criticisms ~~that~~ my book has received they objected to the title, as having a too local character, I of course think that every State in fact every County ought to have a local flora, in general botany is in some special dept; but it is not necessary that this local flora should be a very elaborate work with illustrations but more of a descriptive catalogue with localities particularly marked, I trust now if you getting up a new England book why not make it ferns of N. G. This, I know you will say, will interfere with Prof Eaton's plan not necessarily, Prof Eaton's books can never reach the people few persons will pay \$5.00 ~~can pay~~ for a book on ferns, What I mean is a compact little book probably on the same plan as my own, but gotten up with more care, I would be quite willing to join you

in such a work, you to write up the scientific part and I would attend to the artistic. I want to make a number of investigations. The covers on scabietz's a number of my microscopic drawings are copies, but in a new work of this kind let us have as much original matter as possible. We need not be in a hurry about this but probably be better and get our plans well laid before saying much about it.

From your knowledge of the subject, your clear manner of stating facts and the ~~fine~~ command of language you have shown in every thing I have read of yours. This book out to be a classic. I certainly will not allow any illustrations to pass unless criticised by the best authorities. I have well formed an artistic correspondence with some Etchers and connoisseurs in New York who will only look at the work from an artistic point of view.

These are merely suggestions I throw out, if nothing comes of them no harm done.

I am making up a package of plants for you. I have not succeeded in getting the *G. ebenoides*, I can spare you a friend of the plant. Prof Wildbayer sent me. I think he only found two specimens, I spent a day

in the County last week, I found A. ebenum  
and Comptosium in great abundance, one rock was literally  
covered with these two ferns, if the chenopod is a hybrid  
why did I not find it, it certainly could not have  
a more suitable place to grow the millions of spores  
of both plants must have fallen and needed to get  
for years, I laid in a splendid lot of Pteris  
you never saw such specimens 7 1/2 & 8 inch long.

I fancy there were 100 trees with the incanum  
all by a more with the exception of two elms

I will do what I can for you in the way of  
plants, I will be glad to hear from you  
at your convenience, By the way, you spoke about  
remitting the amount due, you take that due  
and present Mrs D even part with some small  
Christmas gift for me, you know I am a  
basketmaker

Yours Respectfully

John D. Williams

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp;C.

Louisville, Ky. Saturday evening, 1874

My Dear Mr Ravenport

Your letter came to hand this afternoon and after reading it I felt I ought to reply it once. You remember the old saying in the very old book,

"I wish mine enemy would write a book" That remark showed very clearly there were critics in those days.

From my short experience I wish my friend would write a book that is if he receives as many complimentary notices and letters I have received within these last few days, I do not think there has been any transaction in my whole life that has given me so much pleasure as to know from eminent and disinterested men that my work is acceptable. I have no desire for notoriety I rather shun it and the private letters you have sent me from time to time are cherished I assure you.

Mr Redfield sent me quite a long letter speaking in the highest praise of my work, and the plan I adopted. Mr Martindale also writes "I am pleased with it, would not express my feelings, I am indeed highly gratified &c."

Prof Gray writes that he will review it in the Aug. Number of American Jour. Science, and probably for the Waters

He says he may ask Prof. C. to Revell's for  
the Nation, he did not say much but seemed to be  
pleased, The Worcester Spy has a very complimentary  
notice, and so far I have been very fortunate.  
Some of my friends here think I will loose my head  
with so much praise, but they were never greater  
mistaken, of course I am pleased, who would not  
be, but I am just going on in my usual way  
planning out some other work, I have no use for  
a lazy man Mr Davenport, he has no right to  
exist if a man tries and fails well try again  
That is my motto, You ought to see some of my  
first etchings, I was ashamed of them myself,  
Well I have analysed enough, not a little business,  
You say you have pointed out some errors,  
that is perfectly right, I know quite a number  
myself, and if I wrote a review of my own  
book I probably would be more severe  
on myself than you are likely to be,  
The root of Sack, will come up, every time I look at  
the etching I like the way I have managed it  
but it is not true, I suspected it long ago, but  
only lately I found it ~~out~~ <sup>out</sup>, I endorse your remarks  
in this question, I dug over an hour or day trying  
to get a complete root out, but I gave it up,  
I satisfied myself however that it would require  
considerable page work to illustrate the root of Pteris

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

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Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. .... 1874

acquiesce as it ought to be,

From the word Mr Davenport about your new England ferns, Mr Comertons I have no doubt could do the work satisfactory, but probably he is too busy.

If you cannot get any body else I believe I would like to do this work, we may talk over the matter anyhow, I think with your knowledge your facilities and the material you possess, a very valuable work could be gotten up, I think with my knowledge and experience of handling the etching needle I would guarantee to do the work as well as the best I have in my book.

You can arrange your Classification Key &c to suit yourself, You think over this but do not say much about it at present, you know I am interested in the Ferns of Kentucky at present, and I better not let that cool a little.

I will mail Mr Mason C Comertons on Monday, I have put up to him, and I will send a print of C vestitus printed direct from my plate, you see it and tell me if the paper and size will suit you, I am only going to print a set of the ferns that show the full plant, such as

The 'Bradley's' Trichomanes, & you know what I  
mean, not the magnificent views, ...

Your case however Mr. Davenport is an exception,  
if you say I will take pleasure in sending the  
complete set for you, let me know,  
don't hesitate I owe a great deal more than the

I think I have said about enough

Yours Friend  
John Williamson

I may spend my hours on a Bradley's hunt  
If I get any "I'll remember you"

Yours M



Dear Friend. How would it do to remove  
the numbers entirely from the plates. I had  
them put there so as the binder would make no  
mistake, but as there will be so few copies of  
the book printed I could arrange the plates for the  
binder. If you should think I ought to make  
any of the plates over, say so, and send me  
your suggestions. This book must be perfect, at  
least as near that as possible. I will not grade  
the work. I suppose you have noticed how I  
have A. Goldieanum. There is some more of my  
very smart printer. N. ~~M~~ was all right, but they  
picked up some old botany and changed, after I  
had checked the proof. The vargenicum in Indica is  
of the same class of error. Your friend. F. W.

George E. Davenport  
& Family  
Boston Mass



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Dear Mr. Townsend

In my letter yesterday  
I said something about getting into  
trouble with these small Woodcock  
I now ask your advice. I have just  
examined and compared the Woodcock  
of the Gull, and with the Woodcock  
Hyperborei you sent me.

You got me sent me the Gull-billed  
and I made my sketch from it.  
Your Hyperborei looks so like it  
that I fear there is some mistake  
In Hootch & Brewer, there is an  
illustration of Hyperborei, but it is  
represented as having <sup>very</sup> young  
impending from, the single found  
enclosed in your paper, has more of  
the character of ~~the~~ Hootch & Brewer  
illustration, than the one with the

Dear Mr. [unclear] The  
difference of your account  
is a little larger and a little  
more out than Mr. Gilbert's.  
But how I am going to represent  
this difference by my Etching will  
will be difficult to say -  
"it beats the [unclear] all  
too [unclear]" - I send you  
them for [unclear] please  
return ~~me~~ as soon as possible -  
I will send you back everything  
you desire when I am done  
& that will be very short -  
Excuse me for taking up so  
much of your valuable time

Yours Affectionately  
L. H. Williams

When you write, please let me know your  
opinion about representing the 17 Etchings  
as so worthy of the [unclear] my illustration upon  
this it as it was found in the

Thursday

My Dear Friend

Yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> was received,  
I am sorry that the Libe frame panels were not  
gold plated I'm afraid they are tarnished pretty bad  
but you can explain the situation, If they do not like  
the Nickel frame they can get up something of their  
own and I will make the Etchings & correspond  
I sold three frames yesterday, the party selected those  
in preference to any other, you are very kind in placing  
the Garfield frame at Shreve Crump & Low. I do not know  
when I am going to get square with yourself and Hyman  
as you suggested I wrote a personal letter to Mr  
Crump some time ago thanking him for placing them  
(the plaques) in his window, I said very little about  
business, I have not heard from him yet, They understood  
the price I suppose 15.00. net, I was waiting so as  
they would consider the matter, I suggested that I was  
willing to give them some control over the sale of the  
work, but I said nothing definite. If they don't write  
in a few days do you think I ought to write to the firm

probably they are waiting to see what impression these  
plaques will make among their customers before  
ordering any more. I am going to be prepared any how,  
although it is pretty hard work. I sent one to St. Louis  
to day. one goes to Cleveland to-morrow. The encomium  
is certainly very flattering. one thing I want to ask  
you about and that is the Florentine frame. is this  
frame made of solid bronze metal or only imitation  
bronze ~~and~~ I know the style of frame very well and I  
believe I can make this as well as any body, please let me  
know what a frame suitable for a 10 inch plaque is  
worth in Boston, that is, about what you have to pay for  
them. To get up a good pattern is the only difficulty, once  
this was made the casting is simple enough. Have you a  
photo of one, one thing more and you are done. The weather we  
had here last week. was very changeable some days very cold and  
suddenly a warm change. In the Jewellery store where the  
Marine plaque was placed I noticed that every thing was  
running with dampness. The burnished plaque looked dull and  
not at all inviting. I had it sent to our shop to have it  
cleaned a little before sending it home. I took it out of the  
frame and had it washed off in hot water with a little soap. it  
at once looked as bright as ever. but I know from experience  
if this work is kept ~~at all~~ with any care at all it will not tarnish  
and as I mentioned before the finger marks can be removed with a  
soft rag. Your friend, J. W. I will talk about ferns after wards.

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; CO.

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp;C.

227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 1888

My Dear Casenput.

Your letter was received suggesting that I make an exhibit at your Mechanic's Fair.

This I had partially concluded to do. My attention was drawn thereto about two weeks ago by seeing a prospectus of the Exposition. I at once wrote to Mr James Little junr. a gentleman I met in Boston. Clarence Cooks nephew. I saw his name or his Father's name as one of the directors. He wrote me that I was too late applying for space, as all the Room had been taken up.

I then wrote to Murdock Grate Co. if they were going to make an exhibit, and some one of the firm wrote me they were. I then concluded to send them something, but your letter puts the thing in a better shape. I therefore will send just as many things I can. will write again. I have just got up a Bronze Metal Tile. I send you photo. it looks first rate it is in Relief something similar to Louis's Tiles, but much sharper and wrought out with a good deal of freedom. I will have three designs ready and will send them to Shaw. This will be something entirely new. I am corresponding with the man, but if you should see Mr Shaw tell him I will make a good show. I think those Tiles will be quite a feature not only to my interest but to the Murdock Grate Company. The photograph shows the whole thing complete.

63 Market Street,

My Dear Mr Davenport,

I have just mailed

you 24 more of my plates.

Some of them are not as well  
preserved as I would like. I will

see that they make them a little  
stronger. Pl. 47. is rather weak

you see they have two 38.

one should be 39. 6. but I prefer.

I think this a good plate

60 your vernation is turned upside  
down. Fig; 7 & 10 are rather close

in plate 40. do you think I ought  
to separate the reticulated pinnae  
from the rest of the plant.

Every thing is ready to go to press

the next time I write I hope  
to send you a copy. I must now

attend to the sale. I am afraid

I am not a good hand at that.

You know I own the copy right

of every thing about it. I want you

to do what you can for me. I have

worked hard at this. I may get up

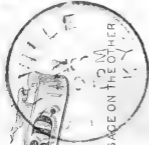
another circular. I was told about

another popular fern work, being published  
next month. What do you know about it?

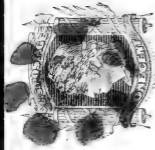
I received the box with  
of specimens with examine  
the points  
I am  
Dear



POSTAL CARD



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



George E. Hayward Esq  
No. 5 Hammond Place  
Boston Mass



3







I trust a few plates on  
your paper and ever  
as long as I find out how  
well I can't do it.

Now I am sure you will  
and I am sure you will not  
have as many eyes as  
in 2<sup>d</sup> Ed. I am going  
to print it after so you  
must excuse the miserable  
letter. About 1/2 of  
I want a small thin paper  
offer of 28 copies. I have  
not found yet. If there is  
to be anything in a primary  
way in the book I want to  
write it.

I have sent an offer of  
Scalper & Ferry Bulletin  
I have in doubt about its

reliability. In a few days  
I may receive and perhaps  
I will send you  
some. I had on receiving  
letter this morning from  
Correspondent. I observed  
his plants in a journal  
to himself.

15 new species and was  
very much disappointed when  
I observed he had not any  
thing new to send.  
He says "well in returning  
up the list & wanted, by  
your decision. I will  
reply about 1/2 of 15 plants  
of which 4 I wanted 4 or 4  
It is a great improvement  
I will write to him in  
a few days. I will tell you

Wm. ...

60. Market St  
Louisville 12

My Dear Mr. Crawford,

Your welcome letter was

received, you will always welcome, because  
 I know you are a good man, and have a great heart  
 and encouragement. The introduction to the Boston  
 Transcript is a copy of work as a well as  
 a piece of writing in which I hope you  
 was the author. You have done a wonderful  
 amount of work in the last few years  
 and I think the world would be better  
 if the struggle for existence forces us to look  
 out for ourself and others. This part is always  
 before us, but it is the your part of it that  
 first ought to be secured. I am glad you are  
 so well pleased with the little book. I tried to do  
 just what I understood to be what you wanted  
 I have received well only in an imperfect sense  
 to do little and study better.

I had a letter from Dr. ... yesterday, speaking in high terms about the book in  
 the ... to get up a cheap work on ...

England for. Similar to the published  
by Green (bridge) some South - I do not  
understand this or what, probably from some  
something a habit of it. Think she wanted  
to assist in the illustration, but she wanted  
that she thought that you had some idea of  
publishing a "Pencil Sketch" and if it were  
her effort would not be required, because  
"There will be no need for anything else, as you  
will be alone in factoring."

I have not written here but will not commit  
myself to anything until I hear from you.  
The fact is (financially) if it turns out a poor  
investment, before you do anything I will give  
you my assurance -

I will be glad to send a few prints to the D. H. in  
Hon. Sec, Camp Green, it contains, A. B. Smith's  
may be a picture, A. B. Smith's was sent to me,  
from what I of the picture only found less than  
I checked the drawing, I have not found it, I have found  
luck. I have given you an sketch of my Mountain, Pencil  
I let your set of back-woods trip, this article I think will  
do some good it has drawn the attention of the Episcopal Mission  
to these poor people. I looked for your Spent last "Naturalist"  
I think they have given me the cold shoulder, by the way I received

Sumner's work  
Fishes and a  
The illustration  
Boston  
1854

The upper surface is almost smooth, and the character of the fern is somewhat different.

When I make an Etching of a plant I never forget it, I have all its characters impressed on my mind. I should like to study those disputed plants you spoke about. I will soon have a little leisure.

In your last letter you remarked that by giving an Etching for 15<sup>o</sup> to any one that asked it I would lessen the value of the book to subscribers, I hardly think so. You know 7.50 is a big price to pay for a book and strangers are not willing to invest so much money without knowing what they are going to get, (so much humbug everywhere)

I only give one plate without descriptions or any thing else, I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as you can. Your sincere friend  
John Williamson

Louisville Ky

My Dear Mr Davenport

I have at last found a breathing spell, at last enough time to drop you a few lines. I have before me a copy of 2<sup>o</sup> ed Fern Etching, I think you will like it, I will mail the copy you ordered for the Hart's Library to-morrow, you can have a good look at it you see I have made a few changes, In the descriptions as you suggested, and the new plates are the Adiantum, Cystopteris, Pteris, Pellaea, and Aplenium peruvicum, I intended to change



Cheilanthes tomentosa; and Asplenium  
Trichomanes. but I had not time  
you may wonder why I changed the  
Plates. you will notice on the  
old plate where my needle slipped  
leaving a bad line I tried to  
remove it but spoiled the whole  
thing so I had to make a new one  
I have chosen the underside to illustrate.  
I believe I have succeeded in giving the  
hard texture of this plant.

I have received the Loney Bulletin  
with your notice. I appreciate your  
kind wishes for the success of the  
book very highly. I have tried to  
do faithful work. I also received  
the California paper with your  
notice. I enclose you my circular  
I think it is very neatly gotten up  
You see I have given credit to

The Transcript and not to you  
as I ought to have done.

My reason for doing so, was that  
a number of parties will receive  
this circular that has read your notices  
in Bulletin and Naturalist.  
They might think it strange that  
you should write so many.  
Oh I might in this?

I am anxious to know how you  
are getting on with your Cheilanthes  
I hope all will come our right for you.  
I have divided the Sceloporus from  
from Linn. I will send you a good  
plond I can also send you a  
good plond of C. tomentosa,  
but it seems to me that this  
form is a little different from  
what I had to make my drawing  
from. I wish you to look at it  
carefully

Louvell 14

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I have mailed all the Copies  
that you desired, if you should want any  
more just drop me a card.

I had a very nice letter from Mr. Redfield  
this morning, congratulating me on my work,  
I was very ~~happy~~ glad to hear from the East  
Prof. Gray has also written me, he said the  
book came to late for the July American Journal of  
Science, but he will attend to it in the Aug.  
number, he will review it in the Nature  
or probably he would get Prof. Eaton to do it  
He did not say much but seemed pleased,  
I am looking forward to your notice with  
some interest.

Yours Respy -  
Wm. Williamson

Lounell St,

Dear Mr Davenport,

I have mailed copies to The Naturalist, Silliman, Nature and Prof Gray. I also send The Entomologist and Abstracted copies to you along with your own copy, you see they get into good hands, I am anxious to know your opinion. You have read our Evening Post I suppose at least I mailed it. It was of course complimentary. The ~~wrote~~ Dr Holland is my friend and he has taken ~~an~~ interest in my work since the beginning. In fact he was the first to believe in it. I expect you however will judge the work on its own merits. An artist of some reputation asked me to day if I made the root from Sacks, I think he was somewhat doubtful, I believe I have been very careful in giving credits even to the minutest detail of course I do not expect to satisfy everybody. You must tell Mr Faxon that I will certainly return his Tomotosa this week, I may send it with his copy. The publishers are of course mailing the books, I fancy Mr Redfield will be a little disappointed with my having so few localities. Thus I also regret, but what could I do. My time to botanize is very limited, I do not know of any local collectors that I could trust without seeing the actual specimens. I made the best of Short, Riddell & Clapp. I could, I have mentioned this in my preface, and if the book has any sale in the

State, it ought to give some incentives to the  
study of ferns. I received the Bulletin this  
morning I noticed that Mr. Redfield communicated  
the finding of *Lycopodium* in abundance;

I think I have got the texture of them better than in  
any other plate,

Mrs. Davis just do you know any of the  
Scribner Editors, I sent them an article about  
6 months ago, and they accepted it and promised to  
publish it as soon as they were done with Mrs.  
Herrick's papers, you remember them I suppose,  
The article I wrote there was on the adaptation  
of wild flowers to ornamental art, I made  
the drawings on the block, (wood cuts),

if it would come out now it might do me  
some good, I wrote to the Editor last night  
I have mailed him a copy of Ferns,

I am not very anxious about the thing now, but  
if they do not want to use it they ought  
to send it back or at least pay for it,

How do you like my cover stamps, the letters are  
not very good, but the basket shows out pretty  
well

Yours, Friend  
John Williams

Louisville 12

May 4

My Dear Mr. Pleasford

I have just got quit of business troubles for another week - and now for a few hours to ferns.

The transfer I send is (I think at least) an improvement on the last. The plate were etched deeper and they come out bolder in the printing. I am well pleased with the *A. Helipterus*. I think the character of this fern is shown very well. all the fig's are from nature with the exception of fig 4 & 5. Plate 2, these I copied from Sachs. I want you now to look over every letter carefully, and report to <sup>me</sup> by Parcel. I got two proofs I will check one, see if I have the names and spellings all right. I would rather that my book be a week or so behind and be free of errors, than rush it through carelessly.

I have received parts 475 of Eaton's Ferns of N. A. It is too bad that *Aspidium* Plate 13 should read *Asplenium*. Such carelessness cannot be excused. Prof Eaton ought to see every proof. The inclusion is very much like the one I have etched to illustrate the genus *Aspidium*. In one of your letters you said that I had managed the *A. Novboracense* very well, I was not pleased at all with this etching and I think I ought to do it over again. The difficulty about the thing is that it looks especially its outline is so like the *Helipterus* and the texture is so different

If I have time I will do it again; if not I will let it go, but it seems to me that I ought to show it delicate tissue a little better.

In such small plates it is impossible for me to give a good view of the large ferns. I often wish I had a sheet as Mr. & Mrs. Norton to work upon.

I have to twist & bend my plants so much that they look a little awkward, ~~and~~ crowded like.

By the way I read the Saturday Review criticism on your Botanyches. It was very evident the Reviewer did not know what he was talking about.

You might have named your plant as a member of the nat. Ord. Solanaceae and it would have made no difference to him; a compliment from Hooker is all any one wants. I am not troubling myself about the outside non scientific magazines, if my book is well received by such men as Prof Gray, Eaton, Hooker &c - I will be perfectly satisfied.

I am waiting to hear from you regarding Polyposody; I expect to have another part for you by the middle of the week. You have made me so familiar with your friend Mr Robinson, that you must give him my compliments, and if you hear of any adverse criticisms please report, I am always ready to listen to advice especially if from a proper source.

Yours friend  
John Williamson

Louisa Mills Sq

April 1 -

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your P.O. card was received  
this afternoon. It is a pleasure indeed to me  
to hear you talk about my etching. I try to  
do the best I can. I think the beauty of these illustrations  
depends more on the style of art. than in the mere  
handling. I mean that with the etching needle  
certain effects can be produced that lithography  
or even wood engraving cannot express. It will be  
a pleasure to me to give you a complete set, printed  
direct from my plates, but you must wait. I  
have just removed *Cheilanthes tomentosa* from the  
acid bath. I am afraid I have not got it deep  
enough but I will try it in the morning.  
I will send you a proof in this letter.

Prof Eaton has also complimented me on my  
work, I of course value Mr. Emerton's opinion  
I met Mr Emerton at Indianapolis, American Ass. of  
Science several years ago, of course he has forgot  
me, I will have 59 plates, and 5 wood cuts,  
It will be a regular picture book.

I want you to advise me in one point,  
My descriptions are short, I never used a word more  
than necessary, do you think that the plates should  
be bound with the descriptions and placed opposite  
or have them placed altogether at the back of the  
book, this is bothering me, I prefer to have the  
descriptions matter and the illustrations mixed,  
ask Mr Emerton or some of your friends.

I want to have every thing first class, good paper  
good printing, type & binding, I have made a  
design for cover I may send you a sketch of it in my next  
letter

J. M. Emerton



Louisville, Ky. Sept 27 188

My Dear Davenport

Your postcard came to hand this afternoon, I know every minute you have is occupied and I don't like to intrude on your time, however I shall try and make it up some day, I shall look for the Transcript notice with interest, ~~and~~ if the public do not encourage me in my work, it is not that they were ignorant <sup>about</sup> of it, any how, you and the rest of your friends have done every thing in your power to make it known, I was shown a plaque yesterday that came from Paris Etched in the same way, and very cheap, but I don't think you would have given it house-room, the design was evidently put on with a stencil very coarse, but very bold and showy

I would not like to do such work. I hope I will not have to. I have written to Mr Shaw to say about the tiles, I don't get any word from their house. Whether the goods are all right or whether they are too dear, or what, a new fork letter received yesterday, was quite encouraging but whether the practical results will be as favorable, time will only tell —

I will send you more circulars and cards. Has our friend Hatch seen the display yet? I will write to some of my Architectural friends to visit it, your Transcript notice may draw them out, The nights are getting a little cooler now. I must make a start on the Ferns. I have glanced over the manuscript, that is all,

I got the Boston Herald with notice thanks. I don't hear from Higginson, I hope he is well.

Sincerely yours Wm Williamson

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. .... 1885

My Dear Davenport

I have just time to say one word. The box arriv'd all right this morning and I at once had the work examined and repacked and sent it to Washington. I send a fair display of tiles. We will see what reports will come back.

About the Plaque for Mr Hurd. I allow you to do whatever you please and about that Crump matter why don't loose any more time about it. I have done little towards the 6 new plaques. I have been very busy with some new tile patterns.

The Metal Worker the paper that Mr Atkinson represents came out in the strongest manner about the tiles. They had a long and elaborate review of the work, & very complimentary.

Yours in Last  
J. W. Williamson

I will write a length in few days

Louisville, Ky. .... 1855

My Dear Davenport

I send you a package  
containing plaques &c - our folks  
send them away without pre-paying  
Expressage please let me know the  
amount of will remit

I hope they will reach you in time

The framed plaque was kindly  
loaned by a gentleman here

I have sent Mr Shaw a number

Set of Bronze tiles These I think

are very good.

I will wait again to narrow

I have one or two other pieces that

I may send but they are small

Yours &c -

John Williamson

Aug. 30/92

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 28 - 1850

My Dear Darwin -

Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> just come to hand I thank you very much for the interest you have taken in this matter. I shall send to Mr Shaw to-morrow morning two sets of Brass Tiles.

I have another pattern nearly ready and will send it on just as soon as I can. These Tiles look very handsome and the Philadelphia house who suggested the idea to me are very well pleased with what we have already sent them. I will send you on

Wednesday several plaques. small Cabinet door a nice picture frame that I would like you to place a photograph of Longfellow or Emerson Emerson I prefer. This frame was partly an order I sold one similar and this one is spoken for but they may back out. I have made an Etched sign  $18 \frac{1}{2} \times 20$ . (ART METAL WORKS JOHN WILIAMSON & Co. Louisville Ky.) with flowers and ferns springing from the left hand corner and turning through the lettering. I think I will make quite a creditable display

A  
BROOK  
NOTE

I think probably it would be better to have the exhibit all-together. The Bronze tiles will make a handsome display. I may have a card printed drawing attention to these tiles because they are something really new.

I am also getting up a new circular with press notices I will mail a lot of you, or to Mr Shaw, I am sorry I did not think of this sooner so as to get in the Catalogue, but I am glad to get in the Exposition, Some of the plaques I have converted into card receivers. I will have a lot of cards printed and placed in the small plates. I have written to Mr Shaw this evening. Good bye now

I must work to night later  
your friend  
Wm. Williamson

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. Oct 13 1855

My Dear Davenport

I send you three plaques  
two with borders and one without, two of  
they are etched pretty bold and the other one  
not so deep. I find that the majority of folks  
like them somewhat bold. You see I tried the  
Trichomanes, you let me know what you  
think of them. If Mr Discuell takes right  
hold I will do well with him. You get his  
ideas about subjects and styles & finish  
Probably he will push those things better than  
the large jewelry houses. I received your  
letter with the Boston Post notice. I have been  
very fortunate. The New York Metal worker I  
received to day has a Boston letter that mentions  
the etchings very nicely. What I am astonished  
at the files seem to hang fire. They must  
be too high. S Law wrote to me every body liked  
them but he would like to see them looking



put in a practical shape  
What do you think the price of  
Photography the Show case will be  
I received the bundle of cards today  
I will get up some more plaques  
with out borders. I was wondering what  
new ink paper your lady friend re-  
presented. Good bye at present

Sincerely yours  
H. W. Williamson

1 The (long) I want to you about Southern. I had them to return my little box of King Aids next winter. My father's name is on the back of the letters etc.

can be handed to him,  
I want Estes & Lauriet to act as  
agents for Boston.  
I exchanged 40 copies with Cassino  
for 4 complete sets of his terms of  
N. A. he has been supplying  
the eastern market so far.  
You noticed an advertisement in  
give Eatons book. This was a  
mutual agreement with  
Cassino & myself. He promised  
to do the same for me in  
one of his forthcoming numbers.  
We will see "

I sent a copy of the Naturalist  
and Popular Science Monthly  
I am willing to abide by their  
criticisms.

I enclose you a notice cut from  
the Phil Press, I sent it to this  
paper at the request of Mr Redfield,  
Comment is unnecessary.

I am in no hurry to decide about the W. E. ferns  
yet. We had better think over it carefully I would  
like to see Mr Robinsons book, I see Emmet, Wesa Book had

we must be true to the character of the species.

Louville Ky -

July. 12 -

My Dear Mr Pavenport,

Your letter was received yester  
day and your P. O. order to day -

I thank you very much for the  
interest you have taken in this matter  
and will not be apt to forget it  
"Many a day" you have endeared  
yourself to a few of my friends  
here who understand the situation.

I was very sorry to hear of you  
being in poor health, you may be  
thankful you are not living  
here just now, it is just roasting  
alive. Ther in the shade 100° off  
but business must be attended  
too, I hope you will soon be  
able to enjoy a trip to the woods.  
It is only the Naturalist <sup>who</sup> can enjoy  
fully a County ramble, but when

one is in bad health, life has few enjoyments

I will attend to the paper & printing of plates at once, and will do my best to give you good impressions a few of the plates you will notice are spotted this is caused by the acid biting through the way when the etching was going on, this I cannot remedy now, but if even I should do any more I will try and prevent that,

I am now drawing a flower piece will send a proof, it will be treated entirely from an artistic point,

I do not know just how my book will sell, but I am receiving quite a number of good notices.

I am getting up a circular with criticisms, will send you one,

I am waiting now on the Nation that may come to-morrow

I write to Eaton about the *Aspidum Spiculiforme*, but he has not answered yet. Prof Gray said that he would get Prof Eaton to review my ferns, for the nature he may criticize that point there, I would like to get \$8 for a week and visit the mountains of N.Y.

The American Ass. of Sci. meets in St. Louis this year it is just possible I may go there, partly on business & partly on pleasure, but to tell you the truth I would rather camp out for a week, take on "hog & hominy" Kentucky fare, bathe in the mountain streams, and forget the cares of this restless life, I am not sure whether Mr. Saxon's copy has been sent, I handed my subscription list to the publishers and they mailed the copies as they were ordered, if he has not got his copy the one you have

you modestly say "perhaps you & your  
considers specific characters to all your species  
you give a sort of a description which is  
very good, but scarcely enough."

Now Mr D. I do not know if my modesty  
had much to do with it, all I aimed  
at was to give a popular description  
that would be understood, with a little  
thinking on the part of the student.

If I had it to do over again I do not  
think I would change my plan.

I thought the illustrations would make up  
for lack of descriptive terms, I would like  
your opinion on that, Prof Eaton did not  
allude to the Speruloma question I  
suppose he forgot all about it. I received  
the Boston Advertiser notice, yours I suppose  
was too long for them, well you know.

Botanical questions are only interesting to  
a small minority of their readers, I am  
perfectly satisfied, I send you by Circulation  
lots of inclosures, I got an advanced  
notice from Walter, I am going to push  
the book a little more, I will send you  
a few circulars with the etchings, if it is  
not too much trouble for you, I do hope you are in better

your friend  
John Williams  
Eaton

63 Market St

Linnell, 13

July 20th

My Dear Mr. Davenport

We have had a very trying  
week especially on those who has a  
weak constitution, this weather has  
just been terrible, however  
I must say I can stand it very  
well & I have a good deal of out  
door business.

I have managed to get your  
set of plates printed, Printing I told  
you once before was very difficult,  
at least I find it so, but you know  
I am not a printer, therefore I had  
just to learn, I printed about  
a doz this evening after business,  
& I think they are decidedly the best,  
the ink was just in fine condition.  
Now when you get those, I do not want  
you to speak too hard about my  
book, to tell you the truth there  
is no comparison, When I say in my preface

that the plates are as sharp & well  
defined as the original, I was not aware  
then that I could get so good impressions  
as I do now, and in fact I was  
well pleased with the lithographic  
impressions, I think they struck you  
as creditable. The conclusion I have  
come to is this, that with great  
care and only printing 6 at a time  
a good impression can be got  
by the lithographic process, but  
you never can get as good work  
as printing direct from the plate.  
There is a softness and delicacy  
about the real etching that you  
cannot get by any other art.

Just take the C. tementum and see what  
a wood engraver would make out of it,  
the tall found has a mistiness about  
it that would be difficult to get  
except by the etching needle.

You must excuse me Mr Davenport  
but I would like to say one word  
more, you have observed that I  
have treated some ferns very different

from others, you ventured that in one of  
your criticisms, but this point is not  
so observable until you have the  
complete set altogether, I noticed this  
of course when I was doing the work,  
but I was not so impressed with it  
until I commenced to print and  
examine, a gentleman who had  
received the Boston Transcript (and who  
is a connoisseur in art matters &  
who has a very fine collection) called  
to see me one evening this week,  
I was busy printing when he called,  
He was very enthusiastic about the  
work, he pronounced the P. tementum  
and the Magnificent bees of Woodsea  
the best of the series.

If I had kept the most of them in the  
acid 10 minutes longer they would have  
been improved, You must think them a  
very personal letter, I will promise not  
to say so much about my work again.

I had a letter from Prof Eaton  
yesterday, he speaks in a kindly  
way and I think I have carried out  
faithfully what I set out to do  
He also says, "I could have wished that

Louisville Ky. — — — — —

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I leave to-morrow for the mountains of Ky. I expect to have a pleasant tour, but I am going alone, an artist friend expected to go but could not get for another week but my business arrangements were so that I must go at once or not at all.

I received your card this afternoon conveying the sad tidings that you had lost your little boy. I sympathize with you Mr. Davenport. I feel that I know you intimately and am interested in all your affairs. I have been exceedingly fortunate in my family relations, I live with my mother and only son, and unmarried, and probably will remain so. This does not however prevent me from becoming one of your warmest friends in your distress. Science has its charms for us all, Nature & Art has thousands of devoted worshippers, but to me the highest phase of existence is when the beat of two hearts will be in perfect harmony, though separated by miles away. This is the feeling your card conveyed

to me this afternoon. I had also a postal card  
from Mr Schmidt to day. he said he had called of  
Mr Schmidt is a true gentleman. I wrote him  
your misfortune. I would like you to  
meet him he is a German.

I may write to you again from the  
Mountains I will have little to do in  
the evenings. I trust Mr Davenport  
you will soon be well yourself. and  
believe me to be your True and  
Sincere Friend

John Williams

I earnestly hope <sup>Mr Davenport</sup>  
your health is improving  
but such weather as we have  
been having is unfavorable  
for those who are not in  
good health.

I believe I ~~mentioned~~  
~~mentioned~~ in my last letter  
I would send some circulars  
with my Etchings,  
but I forgot all about  
it.

Hoping to hear from you  
soon again -

I remain Sincerely  
Yours  
John Williamson

Lansville S.C.

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your Postal card came to hand to  
day. I have been so busy in the  
workshop for a week past that I  
had no time to go to the public library.  
I now mail Mr Hazour's copy

I thought he would have got  
the extra one you had, but  
you say you have disposed of  
it. The money will be sent  
to me now, but no hurry,  
About that advertisement notice  
do not trouble yourself, I am  
satisfied I have got through  
the Mill pretty well  
I will look for a review  
in the Naurelist American  
Journal of Sci & Art and Gardens



Monthly for Aug. —

By the way have you had a  
private talk with Prof Gray  
yet, I would like to get his

Candid opinion,

Mr Walker told me he would  
not be in Boston for about two  
weeks when I saw him, he will  
turn up. I am not very well  
acquainted with him, met him  
a Phel two years ago, thought  
it a good opportunity to send  
plate,

I take the liberty now to  
introduce to you Mr Frank  
P. Schmidt of this city  
who will hand you the set  
of Etchings. Mr Schmidt is  
a special friend of mine

I consider him a worthy gentleman  
a man of broad culture.  
His boys have been attending

The School of Technology  
in Boston. Mr Schmidt is  
on his way to Block Island  
to join his family.

If any of the prints are not  
exactly up to the mark just  
let me know & I will try and  
get better impressions.

I wrote you last Saturday  
about the difficulty of printing,  
but with perseverance I  
can manage it.

The weather has been too  
warm to do any thing  
I am going to try & get  
away for a week to the  
Mountains of N. I would  
enjoy it I have been hard  
at work for two years now  
It scarcely had a day, I went  
to the Centennial & that was  
hard enough work

Louisville 19

Feb 4 1848

Geo. E. Davenport Esq

Dear Sir

I received your p-15. card to day  
and will send you what *Bolozhiana*  
I have next week. I have not etched  
any of the species of this genus yet,  
therefore you will require to return them  
but I will let you know when I do so  
again. I have none of the small  
species. They are not found here.

I send you an Etching of *Asplenium*  
*Bradleyi*. The plant was given to me  
by Prof H. ussey of Lafayette, Ind.

The Etching of *Cystopteris fragilis*, and *Glech. lanthae*  
*longuosa* are printed direct from my plate.

I am very busy writing up descriptive matters  
and will have no leisure time until May

I received Mr. Larson's letter to day from  
John P. Morton & Co

If my business will admit, next ~~fall~~ <sup>summer</sup>  
I will get some good plants for you

Yours Respectfully

John Willamson

Sp. O. miss.  
tr

63 Market street  
Sousville St  
Feb 13 /76

Mr. Davenport

Dear Sir

I send you by this mail all  
the Botrychium I have, I have been  
scattered <sup>to</sup> much in my botanical studies here-  
tofore, but I now intend to confine myself to  
ferns and <sup>will</sup> keep ~~also~~ making a picture of  
every one I get hold of, next summer  
I will not fail to send you every thing  
that we have in our woods, that is of course  
in your special study, I have not figured  
any Botrychium yet therefore if it is not  
to much trouble for you send them  
back in two or three weeks, that will be

Plenty of time, I do not take very long  
to make my etchings, I am busy with  
my descriptive matter, I will have an essay  
on Structure with illustrations one of fertility  
also illustrated. I have made a very good  
drawing of the Prothylles with young fern  
do you work much with the microscope —  
I am a little bothered about my classification  
I wrote to Prof Eaton but have not heard from  
him yet, I ~~do not~~ see why Phycoplasts  
should be taken out of Polypodiaceae, and put  
on account of Polypodiaceae being articulated to  
the root stock, I also send you ~~a~~ specimens  
of Botrychium Alpinosolum, and Hymenophyllum  
I collected in Scotland Enclosed find two  
dollars for two copies of your Botrychium  
monograph. Your Resps. John Williams.

63 Market St

Lanswell

March 3 1878

My Dear Mr Davenport,

I have been trying to get a chance to write you for several days, but could not get time.

If you could spare me the following specimens I would be much obliged and if you desire I will return them as soon as I catch them,

*Cheilanthes vertic.* Severy. c. tomentos. Link

*Aspidium spinulosum* Severy

A. *Goldianum*. I had some beautiful

specimens of this kind gone  
then all away. I thought  
I had more. —

*Botrychium*. what you can spare.

Any remarks on this Genus will be appreciated  
and will be credited.

If any of your friends want a good living  
specimen of *Polypodium inconstans* I can send it  
at once.

Yours truly,

John Williamson

P. S. Since writing the above I have just  
received plenty of *Aspidium Goldiana*  
so leave that plant out

JW

Louisville Ky

March 20 1845

Dear Mr Davenport

I send you two of  
The last etchings I have made.

The *C. vestita* was drawn partly from your plate  
and partly from a specimen Mr Westwale sent  
me and from the form I had myself

I think I have a pretty characteristic  
illustration. I tried to show the hairy  
appearance. The *Decksouii* etching is from  
a plant in my own collection. I thought best  
to give a piece of a frond full size

These are printed directly from my plate, and not  
transferred to stone like the (Trichomanes)

My MSS is in the printers hands and I professing very  
nicely yours Resp- Wm Williamson, <sup>I will not forget to send</sup>  
<sup>your specimen just as soon</sup>  
<sup>as I am done. W.</sup>



## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp; C.

Louisville, Ky. April 12 1878

Dear Mr. Davenport,

I have time to write you a few lines, your card was received. The difference between my etch plates & those lithographed is this, my style of drawing & etching is as old as Rembrandt. The lithographic process is something new to me, but very simple.

A transfer is made direct from my metal plate (and not from a print as some suppose.) The paper that is used for this purpose is composed of a number of ingredients with a large percentage of starch. This transfer after being removed from my plate has just the appearance of one of my regular etchings. The transfer ink is composed largely of a greasy nature. This transfer is then placed on the lithographic stone. This stone has a great affinity for grease. The greasy ink already referred to takes a firm hold to the stone. The paper and starch is dissolved with water leaving the ink sticking fast to the stone. The stone is next washed in a weak solution of acid that cleans the stone perfectly but does not harm the ink.

In this process then the impression is printed from a raised line. in my etching it is printed from a sunk line

For all practical purposes, at least for my work  
the one is just as good as <sup>the</sup> other, every line I give is  
reproduced, but it may not be so bold, 104

Of course this would not be tolerated in high art  
although some books have been illustrated this way  
Mrs Ely's Greatorex, Etching in Colorado, is printed  
by the lithographic process,

It is expensive to print direct from the plate  
but I may tell you that there is no comparison as  
regards the real value of the work, an art critic  
would scarcely thank you for a transfer, when he usually  
values the genuine etching. It will be a pleasure to me  
to present to you a complete set, just as soon as I  
get over my work. I will make up probably 1/2 do  
set for my friends, I may send one to Prof. Gray, Prof  
Eaton, two friends here that are helping me, and from  
I am sorry to inform you that by some mechanical  
difficulty I will require to place the plates in the back  
of my book. I will have Lithomons, as printer's piece  
structure & vertebretum plates, with the text, but the  
rest are doomed to go to the rear. The descriptions  
of course are <sup>as</sup> not uniform in length as "Hers Majestys & van deers"  
that is I say a great deal more about Poly podus  
incomum than I do about P. bulgare, &c. -

The printer said he could not set them in right, sometimes  
two backs would come together, &c. You see I will  
have to mangle. I think they ought to set round it  
some way, however I will have every thing framed & marked up

I will have the Plate numbered, and named with both Screen type & common name. The descriptions will also be numbered ~~with~~ correspondingly,

I enclose you The Botrychium virginicum.

Should this be Ps. virginianum?

Mr. Zaveri: What for are the your  
attacks for Mr. C. B. ...  
Mr. John Robinson ...  
American <sup>Naturalist</sup> ... Page 417  
I am making up your notes ...  
looking for ...

The Botrychium ...  
I hope you will understand ...

The Botrychium ...  
I hope you will understand ...

Yours ...

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp;C.

Louisville, Ky. April 24 1875

Dear Mr Davenport,

I was very glad to hear that Mr Robinson & yourself were pleased with the transfer. The st. punctation I thought rather a poor piece of work. The Cam plowman, May, — is I think the most artistic (if I would be allowed to apply such a term to this work,) in the group. I will send you another transfer of 12. in a few days, I will make no remarks about them, as it is not my business to criticize. You see I will have a pretty good margin, it will be impossible to make the margin any broader on a/c. of the transfer. They put 12 on a stone. I suppose you see what I mean. Now Mr Davenport I would like to associate your name with my book in a permanent way, and if you have no objections will you fill up the blank label etched on P. bulgare. giving place & habitat. (Collected by G. E. Davenport, over hanging cliffs G. & G. Co.) This plate I have chosen to illustrate collecting & prospecting for *Terrestrial*. I have to put some name there & I prefer yours to any other.

I may tell you your encouraging letters  
have done me more good than you can imagine.  
I have etched the most of my plates over again,  
The last etching I have made were so far ahead of  
my first one that I was ashamed of them,  
I enclose you an extract from one of our  
city papers yesterday, the writer is a good  
critic on art subjects, and has a good collection  
of engravings, &c.

I have attempted something new in the engraving  
the plant I have in my head in case, and it is doing  
splendid. I tried to express the living plant  
growing among the moss. The moss foreground  
is not definite enough I will bite it over  
to night, and send you another proof along  
with the transfer,

By the way I think it would be a good  
plan for me to send the proof transfer and  
if it is not to much trouble for you to  
check it, and return it, I will then send  
you another perfect one, it may be all  
right if so keep it, by I have no one to  
consult here on nomenclature, I have a good  
friend in Dr. E. S. Crozier who is assisting me in making  
up the book, but I have to trust to my self on scientific  
points, I only wish I was nearer you,

Yours Respo. - Wm. Williamson

Linnæus 19

May 10 1858

Dear Mr. Brewster

I am glad to see your  
kindness has been able to find my book and not  
be cut for me. The government has not  
told me the amount of the ~~to~~ but a different  
it for the amount to be cut and to be  
cut in the amount, I told you to  
make out my bill for it had told a few  
days ago. I will send you a copy to  
show me and it partly bound, it is a  
copy so you have the book it just as  
it is. I will send you a copy of  
the book and a certain quantity  
of your collection of the same  
all your papers will of course be  
I was so sure that you should see the book and  
send you some of the money it. It is not  
out of the book and it is a few small  
drawing your attention to some points,

The next time I consider the book  
I have done, but it is scarcely natural (I have  
contraction) I have been working at  
this season, and among them a day out a  
book of them, I find the root and decayed stipes  
at some intervals and the root was not so  
as Sachs said. It would of course be impossible  
to represent the root in such a small space

as it is in texture, but if I had another one I  
do I would at least make a nearer approximation  
to that of the other. This is I just took it for granted  
I have come to the conclusion that we must examine every  
detail thoroughly. Some of my more recent I  
collected from the same locality as that of the  
Bancroft, and I have compared the copy with  
the actual specimen, but I have not had  
sufficient time to examine it closely from nature.

You will see in the enclosed set of figures in  
two sheets, the sketches of the structure of the  
sides of of course from nature, and I have not  
drawn anything out of them. In the fourth figure  
I have drawn a few lines, I am not sure whether  
I would it be a full one. My museum is  
an old Hartman's, and not very good but I managed  
to see the author's original, most carefully.

In the original edition of Decussata I inserted, there is  
a similar drawing of Decussata, but I did not see  
it it was made entirely all the way up.

I tried to make the Decussata a little like  
Fig 415 are from Decussata, & from nature, there is  
nothing in the latter, I can see the same.

In the Decussata Fig. have you noticed the  
peculiar manner this form has of separating the  
young from I have collected it often, & I have  
tried to observe this double course. I may also  
mention that the description was written for another

drawn, I had a single grand, I did not  
 like it as a trademark applied with the one purpose  
 There is nothing in my description that will mislead  
 you, & I am trust to be plain, but I am, I am  
 are the most interesting. You may have  
 some remarks to make on classification,  
 and my flag, but I am, but there are many  
 considerations.

& copy on thing you have  
 The India I never saw with the, in point  
 of course is objectionable for that purpose, I  
 if I think to be in credit for it, I will return  
 to you. You can show the copy to a few of  
 your friends, but I am, that it would be  
 advisable to show it to any, but a lot of which  
 more or more for the minute than the time.

The cover will be stamped with original design  
 the I also make ~~some~~

In December I think I had better send you  
 the others you refer to, you can send them  
 to the Transcript & Advertiser, I will send  
 to the National, and any other you designate  
 a section in a judicious letter with the copy  
 I send you the days since you, with a  
 review. I am a very, such as I send you -

The cover design I will send to the book  
 store and where Boston books, will be  
 Yours and I. J. W. W. W.



63 Market Lane, London, W. 1  
May - 21 1881

Dear Mr. Sowerby,

Your letter I received yesterday  
and noted your criticisms. I have seen nothing  
a little about the Polyphemia. I have a good specimen of  
~~Polyphemia~~ *Polyphemia* that I brought from Scotland, and it looks  
very much like the illustration I sent you but much smaller.  
I have not the specimen I made my drawing from. It was a  
very faint I collected this season. The general appearance  
I understand however you mean, made me think it was  
the Polyphemia. Will you send me a characteristic  
specimen of this one. I will name it. I have some  
magnificent specimens of what I call the *hazy* -  
lower branches straight & very broad - I should like  
of course to be correct in this and fortunately did not  
have any doubt, except a few points. If you send me  
a specimen of Polyphemia I will stick it, & if I am  
mistaken in my opinion we can change the name  
very easily. H.B. I of course noticed - & I have  
addressed to, I send you another series of 12 - 2  
rows cut them up but that makes no difference -  
By some mis-management the Lithographer has  
made several errors, that can be remedied in  
the proofs. The plates they are hardly as good as the  
last I sent you. The Polyphemia - Gower did not  
turn out as well as I anticipated. The microscopic  
views of Spongia I intended to show the field of the

increased, it is not my will but, but if it was  
printed a little larger it would improve it.

The A. Cristata I think is the best, but you  
make your own criticisms on wood on the structure

to plate. Fig: 5 from Saker Part of Plate agreed  
it is bold and I think a good copy, but the contrast  
is very great between the wings and the other cut lines.  
The plate looks too heavy, not too much printed -  
but we must not press it too much. The fact  
is I do not ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> an identity but what I would like  
to make it over again I always receive something  
wrong - I send you the best 12 - it is to  
be changed how soon I have no printed.

but if you should notice any error please report.  
W. Davenport keep hold of the plates I send you  
until I order otherwise, a few D. plates will not  
be of any good for your kindness - I also  
send you the P. budget, you cannot do otherwise -  
I do not take it very well -

By the way, W. Davenport, have you any objections of me  
using your plates in revision, I have only 59 plates  
and I would like to have 60 - it will not be so cheap for  
me to have the number. I thought I would take your  
plate and of course give both yourself & the printer  
credit, I will copy from the fig carefully. The plate will  
be smaller but the fig's same size. please let me know

Yours respectfully,  
John Williamson

I have just received dissertation now do you like it? from my experience  
I can believe there is plenty of work on it.

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The paper will be tinted just  
the same as ~~the~~ ~~paper~~

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# FERNS OF KENTUCKY

WITH

SIXTY FULL-PAGE ETCHINGS AND SIX WOOD CUTS,  
DRAWN BY THE AUTHOR,

ILLUSTRATING

STRUCTURE, FERTILIZATION, CLASSIFICATION,  
GENERA, AND SPECIES.

---

BY JOHN WILLIAMSON.

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LOUISVILLE, KY.:  
PRINTED BY JOHN P. MORTON & CO., 156 AND 158 WEST MAIN ST.  
1878.

## PREFACE.

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The want of a popular hand-book on our native ferns induced the author to issue the present work. The great expense of getting up the illustrations no doubt prevented publishers from such an undertaking. The beautiful monograph of the Ferns of North America, by Professor D. C. Eaton, of Yale College, now in course of publication, will, when it is completed, form a most valuable contribution to Botanical Science. The only aim of the present volume, however, is merely to be a guide to the amateur fern-gatherer, a book that can be carried in the pocket, and referred to at any time, whether in the woods or in the study. Pages are left blank so as to enable the student to make notes regarding the habitat and locality of ferns and flowering plants.

The works of Riddell, Short, Clapp, and others who have gone over probably the same ground, are scattered throughout the various periodicals published at that time. They are very difficult to get at, and entirely out of the reach of the amateur botanist. These early workers made no attempt to illustrate, sometimes mentioning the county where the specimens were found, seldom the exact locality.

All the localities have been credited as far as could be ascertained with accuracy. In McMurtrie's History of Louisville, he gives *Scolopendrium officinarum* (Swartz), as found near Louisville, Ky. This is certainly doubtful.

The present work is not so full in localities as it ought to be, and it is the earnest desire of the author that local collectors should communicate with him regarding this matter, noting carefully the time and the place of finding any plant described in these pages—whether on the higher ranges; whether on the declivities, or in the valleys, in the damp, rich woods, or along the banks of streams; whether on trees, or overhanging rocks; whether the rocks are sandstone, limestone, or of igneous formation. Notes can not be too careful or minute.

This is merely a beginning of what can be accomplished with the aid of local collectors. We hope in a little time to be able to determine the locality and range of every species and variety indigenous to the State.

I now take this opportunity to thank my botanical friends for the kind assistance they have given me in this work—Mr. J. C. Martindale, of Camden, New Jersey, Mr. John H. Redfield, of Philadelphia, Prof. D. C. Eaton, of Yale College, Prof. Coulter, of Hanover College, Indiana, Prof. Hussey, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., Mr. Chas. E. Faxon, and Mr. G. E. Davenport, of Boston. I am especially indebted to Mr. Davenport for his valuable hints regarding the nomenclature and for criticisms on the illustrations.

PREFACE.

v

I am also specially indebted to my friend Dr. E. S. Crosier, of this city, who has taken a great interest in the work since its beginning, for valuable assistance in the preparation of the text. Most of the descriptions have been carefully revised by him, a courtesy I greatly appreciate.

J. W.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MAY 16, 1878.

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THE ILLUSTRATIONS are etched on metal plates, afterward transferred to lithographic stone, thus enabling the work to be published at a much cheaper price than if the copies were printed direct from the plates. They were printed by the Louisville Lithographic Company, who are to be thanked for the interest they have taken in the matter, in getting clear and sharp impressions, in every respect as well done as if they had been printed direct.

63 Myrtle St

Louisville Ky

May 25 1888

My Dear Mr Downport,

I have read my last proof and finished my last etching of the Ferns of Kentucky, and I just sell as if I had nothing to do. I have worked pretty hard and I am glad I am done; but to tell you the truth I have enjoyed it, if my readers will only get as much pleasure out of it as I have I will be satisfied.

Now about your letter I received yesterday, in the first place (as my old preacher used to say) The names as your remarks are a little weak, I had the same objection to them <sup>compulsively</sup>. They were engraved by the lithographer, but I have got used to them & rather like them, I think they are very pretty and carefully made. What ought to strike you first is the picture the name ought to be subordinate.

Now about the etchings I am like you, I want a good strong print, I am rather inclined to jump the fault of some of the prints being weak and faint like lies in the etching. This is a peculiar art. The acid must be of a certain temperment, every line you make must be of a certain strength and there are so many jumps to watch that nothing but close study & long experience will enable you to accomplish any work of value, any work that I will undertake in the future must be careful in every respect. Now about the *P. hexagonifera*, I am satisfied that you are correct and the species *P. polypleioides* is rare in Ky.



I have etched the specimens you sent me, and made a note regarding the similarity of the two species, Do you think there is enough to justify in making two species,

I intend to watch this point closely this summer; your New England specimens looks very much like the plant I brought from Scotland, I thank you for drawing my attention to this, you know I want to have as few errors as possible,

You thought my *A. Acrostichoides* was not very good, this is a very characteristic form of this fern in our woods, <sup>woods</sup> ~~woods~~ moist and wavy, I thought I had managed that pretty well, the stem I think is good,

Now Mr Downport I find no fault with your criticisms, I am trying to place myself in a position to criticize myself, by ignoring my uncharacteristic, Now for the *Spon. adosum*, this plant has given me a good deal of trouble, well not trouble but thought, I have quite a number of specimens collected in the wood on close examination I could not get them to agree with the typical specimen you sent me, I selected what I thought was a good characteristic specimen of var. *intermedia*, In such a work as I was aiming at it was impossible for me to go into this subject in all its details, What I would like to do would be to get up a series of etchings of this fern in all its stages and all its varieties, giving probably Magnificent views of all the important points, This of course will take some time, but whatever is done let it be done well,

I suppose The Saturday Review would say this was  
"Quixotic" I was troubled about the naming of this  
species, and I am afraid it is too late to change it  
now, <sup>the</sup> ~~matter~~ had been stereotyped and to make a change  
would have cost me considerable, I have made  
~~some~~ notes on this point in my description, that I  
think will be satisfactory. Dr Gosse who has  
been a great assistance to me, discussed this question  
pretty well, I will drop a note to Eaton however  
regarding this matter & inform you what he says.

You ask about the proofs I send you of my etching.  
The prints I send you in my letter are printed direct from  
my plate you have been getting the very first print.  
The other prints on tinted paper with the names are  
the transfers, I like the transfers just as well & in  
fact a little better than my own printing.

To be able to print etchings well from the plate one  
must have long practice, it is very difficult, it is more  
difficult to me to get a good print than to etch,  
and it is merely mechanical. <sup>members of the</sup> The New York Etching  
Club has to send their work to Paris to get printed,  
this is rather a curious statement, but I have scribbled  
for it. I will bore you too much to go into all the details,  
Mrs Dr Davenport I believe I have answered all your  
questions, I enclose you the title page, and Preface  
you must not say one word about my preface, I have  
credited all my friends and I have done it with a  
heartly good will and for yourself Mrs Davenport I shall

Not forget your kindness, I am only sorry I did not know you sooner,  
I will mail you on Monday evening 14 of my plates including your permission, I am afraid I have not made as good a piece of work as I could have wished, an outline drawing in etching looks little ragged, I was anxious to get them done and last night I felt tired and somewhat worn out, The folks here are getting weary weary on my book, the farm season is advancing, and there is very little time to loose, if the 14 is all right please just send me a telegraph of 10 words I enclose the money, you have been at considerable expense on my acc. I will see you are remunerated,  
I suppose I ought to have a pretty fair sale for my book in Boston, Estes & Lauriat has received a sample copy, and several other publishing houses, Cassin takes 20 copies in exchange for 4 copies of his ferns of N.Y., I want you to send me notices of the Reviews favorable or otherwise, I may send a copy to Hooker, and also to the Portfolio, and etching Journal, London,  
By the way have you seen Prof Gray, he has charge of the Nation I believe, however I do not want you to prejudice any one in writing a review, but am willing to allow it to go out on its merits, but you know Kentucky is a poor place for any good to come ad off, You asked my opinion of Plate 12. in letters form, Before I received your letter I

procured at the best in the book after this work is advanced a little I will give my opinion of the publication I have not had time to study it closely

Wm. Wallcut

Louisville Ky -

Aug 5 1888

My Dear Friend Davenport

I received a postal card from Mr Schmitt this morning. He writes me he called at your office #8 Hamilton Place on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult. to deliver the Etchings, but found you absent, he therefore did not leave them but said he would be in Boston soon again. I have written him to mail them to you, Mr Schmitt is now at Black Island with his family. This place is quite a resort for Louisville people. I have a number of friends there. Two more of my most intimate friends leave this week and I very near made up my mind to go along, but I cannot get away from my business long enough, I therefore will content myself with a trip to the mountains of Kentucky with one of my friends. Mr Cooper, who is not in very good health leaves on Saturday for Black Island

I should like very much for you to meet him  
He may call but it is hardly probable.

The most of my friends here are Eastern people  
They drifted West to get on, but the getting  
on is questionable. Has Walker called yet  
if not just drop him a card or if not too  
far out of your way see him & get the plate. His  
address is A. Walker care of Holbrook & Porter  
14 High St, Now a little Fern talk,

I suppose you read Prof Gray's notice of my book in  
American Jour of Sci & Art. I was astonished he preferred  
The Wood Cut to the etchings, it is true they are  
clearer but they want softness. However his notice  
was kindly and I liked it. I am very anxious to  
see Mr Robinson's book. I ordered it from Cassin  
about a week ago, in fact it was 10 days ago  
It will come along I suppose, but I should  
have liked to exchange with Mr Robinson

I have received parts 617 of Eaton's Series,  
of N.G., and to tell you the truth I am  
not satisfied with the work,

Perhaps I am getting poor species, how is it that  
the plates are printed on paper fully 1/2 inch

larger than the text, when the book comes to be  
bound in trimming the name of the fern will be  
cut off or the point of the fern will be cut  
at the top edge. I refer you to plates 16, & 20—  
A gentleman I get it for, almost refused to take it  
on that account— Now about the illustration,

Plate 16 is good, in fact what I object to is trying  
to give an idea of a plant from a miniature  
picture, you cannot do it, and I think the  
sooner Prof Eaton or Mr G. Morton see this point  
the better it will be for the book. In plate 19  
Plechnium an example of this reducing process  
is given, how what does it convey to the mind  
it's true a small section is given full size, but  
with such a large page and such a beautiful  
fern a fine picture ought to have been the  
result, 16 as I have said is first rate, so is  
Adiantum but no texture, The Botrychium I  
think are possible but he might have succeeded  
in getting a more graceful form out of P. ternatum  
If the P. dissectum given characteristic of your plant,  
I made my drawing exactly as we have it here.  
As a work of art I think the Phycopteris. The

poorest thing in the number, This is a favorite  
fern of mine, it grows very plentiful in  
Scotland & I have some beautiful specimens  
The green is a yellowish tint, and the plant  
when growing has a drooping appearance  
I have made a drawing of this fern I will send  
it in a day or two, What in the world did he bend  
or rather fold that stem in such a manner  
You loose the character of its being long in fact  
it is an eyesore to me every time I look at it  
The whole drawing is a miserable little figure  
whose outline would make a pretty good  
geometrical form.

You may think I am a little hard on the artist  
but when a man gives himself out as an artist  
he ought to be criticised from that point of view,  
You may say, take the beam out of your own eye  
before you take the mote out of thy brothers, very true,  
but when we consider that I had to do the whole work  
almost single handed and make so many illustrations, it  
could hardly be expected that they all could be first  
rate, and considering the page room Mr & Mesters  
has he ought to at least have them lying gracefully  
on his page. This is my humble opinion of this work.  
Some of the plates are very fine others again are very poor

I was well pleased to see that Prof Eaton, acknowledged your merits in his  
Botanical articles. Yours sincerely John Willdenow

1  
Lancaster Ky  
Nov. 10 1838

My Dear Friend Lancaster

I have had a very busy week  
I had no time to answer your letter sooner,

I have put up a package of dry plants, I hope you  
will like them. I send you, *A. Bradleyi*, *C. pennsylvanica*,  
*C. montana*, *Casaphyscus*, *Chelidonium vesicaria*, *Polygala* <sup>incana</sup> ~~latifolia~~  
*Eriochloa setacea*, and *Symplocos* *palustris*,  
I wanted you to see a specimen of the climbing fern from this  
region. In my P.O. card a few days ago I told you I had succeeded  
in getting the *Eriochloa*. I had never found it before and I  
can tell you it was a greater pleasure for me when I saw it.  
I took a short run up to Rockcastle Co. thinking I might probably  
get it. I knew it was found about 30 miles from this place  
in Laurel Co. The country is of the same nature and reasoning on  
general principles it ought to be found there.  
After examining every likely place I had almost concluded to give  
up the search. I was on a pretty high range of hills, but the  
rocks were ~~conspicuous~~ <sup>conspicuous</sup> and damp, but not dripping. I suspected  
a larger and darker looking cave than the rest, I was some little

distance from it, but resolved to give it another trial,  
and on drawing near to the entrance of the cave, I  
noticed something green hanging from the roof, on careful  
examination I found it to be my long sought *Trichomanes*  
There were very few specimens, and not very good at that  
but I had found this fern, and I have no doubt but  
what it is plentiful in this neighborhood, I had only one  
day, and night was coming on so I had to give up the  
search, but next season I will be sure to give this  
place a thorough exploration, I also found the *A. Bradleyi*  
*montanum* & *pennatifidum* were also common, the *Bradleyi* was  
a little different from what I found in Estill Co, that is, the  
general character of the plant partook a little of the form of  
*montanum*, I only got about 12 or 13 plants, and they were all small,  
The *Estill Co.* specimens, at least some of them had the appearance of  
*ebeneum* now in Estill Co, the probably ferns associated  
with *Bradleyi* were the *ebeneum* and *pennatifidum*,  
while in Rockcastle Co, the I did not find a single plant  
of the *ebeneum*, but plenty of *montanum* & *pennatifidum*,  
There probably is nothing in this, but I think it is well  
to make these notes, I enclose you in the package, a  
small specimen I found among my Estill Co. plants  
it is *parvulum*, or only a small *ebeneum*, I enclose it

was terribly mixed, It seems to me it has the  
character you claim for *parvulum* penins slightly stalked,  
However I will leave you to decide, I received your  
*Spinulosum* but have had no time yet to read it carefully,  
All the specimens I have examined have their *indurata*  
ciliate, If I can get all points you speak of I will  
make a series of etchings, but more about that again,  
Now a few words about the Fern book, I have little  
more to say than what I suggested some time ago  
I may tell you however that I received a very encouraging  
letter from Mr Watt, in Montreal Co. Without having  
any correspondence with Mr Watt, except my sending a  
circular occasionally, He writes, "I have received  
circulars announcing your excellent little book on  
Ferns &c - I hope you may be encouraged to  
extend the work so as to include the whole Fern  
flora of northern Va, in which event please draw  
on me for specimens of our rarer northern ferns"

This I think is a good sign,  
When you get a little spare time give me your  
views, In your last letter you spoke of about Mrs  
Cooper of Santa-Barbara, Do you think she  
entertained the idea seriously about using my book



as a text book for the Santa-Barbara College &  
I tried to be as careful with my classification &  
they as I could, I was sorry I did not say more  
about fertilization,

I suppose I shall hear from Mrs Cooper on the  
subject, I have never heard from her since I  
sent her a copy, If I should make arrangements  
with her I will let you know,

Who is Miss Downs, I believe that is the name, she has  
quite a long review of Mr Robinsons book & my own, in the  
Boston Literary World,

I suppose Mr Richards plan has fallen through  
she has not written to me any further,

Give my compliments to Mrs Davenport  
Probably you are right about true happiness, Of course,  
I dont know,

My friend Mr Schmidt has a son in Boston, he made  
his first appearance on the stage last week, did you  
notice any thing about it, His professor is the boys own  
choosing, I hope he may succeed, but the path is strewn with  
plenty of thorns, Do you think you can read this,  
Your friend John Williams

Louisville Ky

Dec 5 1886

My Dear Mr Davenport

You see my friend I just keep on writing. Carlyle says Speech is silver but silence is golden. My motto is when one has anything to say let him say it, with all his might, now you need not expect any great revelations from this prelude, I have simply a plant here that I can't make out,

Prof Wildbarger of this state, sent me some time ago at the ferns he collected when on the Geological Survey of this state in 1886. The plants were collected principally at Cumberland Gap. He wanted me to look over them and name them, that ~~was~~ if any were wrong, they were very poorly dried, and glued down in the regular size paper, among the *A. & L.* specimens, I noticed a small frond of the *Parvula*, that I send, on the *Charanthus* paper, I noticed two fronds very different from the rest, *C. vestita*. I at once removed them from the paper moistened them in hot water and spread them out the best way I could. I saw at once they were not *C. vestita*, but they were new to me, I also send you these two fronds one sterile & one fertile, I need not describe them, but I will give you my opinion. I decolorized a pinule of both fronds, and have made drawings of same, The prothallium looked very much

Cheilanthes & Polloc, it is certainly not a *Stem*, neither  
allosum. The vening is characteristic of Polloc - and the  
stuff covering stem and also the marginal inclusion  
looks very much like that genus. But it also has some  
a Cheilanthes look about it. That I am inclined to  
place it in that genus. In the small segment I placed under  
the microscope the inclusion, was notched, but that part took  
of the form of the lobe. I have before me Cheilanthes  
California sent to me by Mrs Cooper. There is some similarity  
between the two plants, but I give it up.

I wrote to Wildenber if he found the plant at  
the place designated on the paper, he said he must  
have done so, as they were all collected together, but if he  
had done so, I wondered he had not observed this before  
when the plant was fresh, but I suppose he was hurried on  
little time to study in a campaign of the kind.  
I have not had time to make a natural sized drawing of the fern  
I therefore want you to return it as soon as you make it out. I  
suppose you know it. I have been so busy I have not had time  
to go over your *Spinalium* article. I have read it of course, but I  
want to get a number of my specimens and follow you all the way  
through if I differ in my opinion I will let you know  
I want to ask you confidentially about Cassino, as a business  
man, is he perfectly reliable. He seems very anxious to  
sell my book but he is a great fellow for exchange -  
I told him I did not want to exchange any more. I  
sent him 40 copies when the book was published.

in exchange for 4 complete sets of Eatons, This I  
suppose was all right, - He now wants to sell the  
Books on Commission and has offered to advertise the  
Farm of Kentucky, along with Prof. Eatons. Prof. Robinsons  
book, tho I think also is a fair bargain. Some time or  
other in my correspondence with him I have not got  
that confidence in him that is desirable between businessmen  
and especially doing a commission business, he appears always  
to be afraid he is going to get cheated, (all I want to know  
from you is this, and as you have better means of judging  
than I have) how he is respected among scientific men  
as well as business circles, I have no hesitancy in send-  
ing him 50 or 100 copies, if I thought every thing would be  
all right, I am sorry to bother you with this feature  
of my undulating. This is what is generally termed the  
Broad Butler part, Compliments to Mrs D. & all the family  
Your true friend John Willcox.

Know what is for  
By the way, what price is Herbert Baker  
Synopsis of Selagin. Prof Robinson says \$4.00  
If you know where I could pick up one  
cheap I would get it.

In reference to that *Charanth. alabamensis*  
I would like to be perfectly sure, the  
name I study at the time I think it is  
a *Pellaea*, and if you say it is *The Pellaea*  
of Baker, I really think he is correct.

I am in no special hurry but of course  
in the next addition I want it to be full,  
Waldberger did not know the difference between  
this and *C. vestita*, I think however he will  
be a valuable fellow to cultivate, because  
he goes for on long tramps.

I was surprised when you told me  
that a Mr Underwood of New York State  
has a fern book under way,  
was it illustrated, I suppose he has caught  
the fever of authorship, probably he thinks  
there is money in it, well let him try.

I was asked some years ago to join a botanical  
society here in getting up a fern book, he  
was to do the descriptions part, and I was to  
make the illustrations. When I tell you candidly  
all he knew about ferns dated since he made my  
acquaintance, you must imagine I was astonished,  
just the old story about tools & -  
Yours sincere friend  
John Williamson

Louisville 1/4  
Dec 22 1886

My Dear Friend

I believe I am in  
your debt two letters and one P.O  
and, I am anxious to see your Catalogue  
Louisville is a poor place to sell  
botanical catalogues, however you  
may count on one, that is sure,  
while you are sending you may put up  
1/2 a day I will do what I can, I will  
remit just as soon as I get them.  
I thank you for the few points about  
Cassio. I do not know how I have come to  
have such a poor opinion of him, the fact is  
I think he did not care about the "Ferns of  
Kentucky" when I commenced this work  
I had no more idea, that he or Eaton  
had the subject under consideration of  
publishing a fern book than I have of

writing a book on mosses or any thing  
else, I have often wondered why some  
one did not attempt a good popular  
book, I was well on with my work  
when I saw Cassini's announcement  
I was then wondering whether to stop or  
not, I did not send any copies on  
Commission I gave him a good discount  
for cash, if he wants them he can get  
them but I am not particular, The book  
is selling slowly, you have observed  
the advt I gave him in my book, this was  
given in exchange for an advt of my  
book, but the advt has never appeared  
I have asked several times about this  
he says it will appear in the near  
future in "Science News"; we will  
see; I have the last number  
and read an article on Botryctes  
by your friend John Robinson,  
I am trying to make something out of  
the little asplenium, I am making drawings

of the spore, the prothallium and the younger  
forms of all the species, including,  
*Finnelipha*; *Bradley's* *Choneum*, *Montana*  
*parvulum*, and *Camptoceras*, probably  
I mentioned them to you before, if I  
did excuse me, I am glad to know  
you spoke about my additions to Dr Gray,  
I have been trying to send Dr Gray a  
few of my etchings from the plates, but  
printing is a little troublesome and I  
have so little time, I was astonished to  
hear him say in American Jour. Sci. Nat  
that he liked the wood cuts of classification  
to the etchings, it is true they are darker &  
perhaps clearer but if I may express  
myself they are very wooden  
I would like to take a trip East  
and meet all you Sorrows, I certainly  
will do it sometime, but not yet,  
I see in Science News an advt for a  
Botanical artist, I am very anxious  
some new book I suppose, I like to

1  
Lewistown N.Y.  
Jan. 22 1879

My Dear Mr Davenport

Your card received  
I hope you will get through on a financial  
point & receive with your catalogue,

I will do what I can and will notice  
it in all our papers; but you know there  
are to few specialists here that I am afraid  
that it would not do very much good.

If you had time to get a little circular printed  
and direct personal to Botanists I think you  
could dispose of a number, as I said before I  
will take 6 copies, I have already told.

I find in my experience that there are a great number  
of people who like to get something for nothing.

that is they will give you a nice notice if you will be  
kind enough to send a copy of your book &c &c.

If I had responded to every call my cabinet would have been  
exhausted long ago, and my pocket ruined

I suppose you are to busy now to talk about Terms of  
New England, I am in no special hurry, as I  
have more work on my hands now than I can possibly  
accomplish, the longer I live it seems the more I  
have to do, and I have no fear of running out of

raw material, I do not see how you fellows  
that has large families & look after can get along,  
About this New England book, I would like to make  
one suggestion, The Publishers of my Farms of '44, are I  
think pleased with the success of the book, I suppose  
they never had a book that issued from their houses  
that was so well received, and as Prof Gray said it  
looks to us as if it had been printed & stereotyped in  
New England, Mr Bangs the business manager would  
make a sacrifice to get hold of a new England book  
to publish, The firm is wealthy and they could afford  
to set it up at cost, now it is to your truck of  
that, what you want and what I want is to get up  
a work first class in every respect, I have a good deal  
of influence with the house, however I have said little  
about it in fact nothing, I only gave and received some  
hints. The firm is straight forward in the truest sense of  
the word, the trouble with them they are too slow,

But if a good work was gotten up I have not the least  
doubt but what they could sell large numbers to the  
Eastern dealers, Since I am on this books business  
I may mention that it will not do to put too much  
faith on subscribers, they send their name and promise  
to remit but that is the last of it, you told me  
in one of your letters that Mrs Cooper of Santa-Barbara  
advised you to send her I believe 3 Dgs, now I want  
to tell you confidentially that Mrs Cooper subscribed for

my Farms, I sent it as soon as published  
and I have never received a word about it since  
I thought probably she had not received the copy,  
but from the way you wrote me about her  
thinking about adopting the work as a text book  
she certainly must have received it, I do not  
think I have sold two copies in the whole State  
of California, You was kind enough to warn me  
about Cassino, I do this now to you as a friend,  
I think I have about 40 subscribers that have not  
called for their books,

I did not send any books to Cassino on our message  
he afterwards bought 10 copies, I think Doubleday  
will put the book well,

I enclose you another etching, you see it is in  
the parvulus and the C. alabensis, I also send  
a new etching of A. noveboracense a little im-  
provement over the one in the book, I am working  
them over again, there is nothing displeases me than  
a poor illustration, I am much astonished that  
Eaton would allow such poor work in his book -  
The artist, it seems to me, can do it well when he chooses,  
I think in a book of such pretensions there should not  
be a single poor plate, I had a very kind letter  
from your friend Wm Robinson some time ago -  
If you have time write me, I like to hear from you  
our Sincere friend  
John W. Lawrence  
Compt. & no D. & game;



Louisville 14

Feb 16 1879

My Dear Mr Vaccapad

Your of the 2<sup>d</sup> was received  
I hope you are getting on with your  
Catalogue nicely, but there are so many delay  
in printing and correcting proof that is  
annoying, I hope you will come out all  
right financially, I am sorry to hear that Cassino  
is hurrying their stans of 1879, so fast, I am sure  
that Prof Eaton will not take any careless work,  
I do not want to say much against the illustrations  
it might be taken for envy on my part, there are  
some of the plates excellent, but the majority will not  
bear close inspection and those last Osmonds are  
miserable, I receive four copies of the book and the  
subscribers are grumbling a good deal, I suppose  
you have noticed some of the pages will not turn  
in binding

I have made out a programme  
for myself that I think you will approve of.  
if not I want you to say so, never hesitate  
in giving me your honest opinion, about anything  
I do, there is far too much flattery in this  
world, Your last criticisms about my plates and

2<sup>d</sup> edition, I notice and will attend to. -  
My Program me already referred to is this.

I have lately received a few orders for my etchings, printed direct from the plate and they seemed to be appreciated. I have so little time to do the printing that I ~~thought~~ found it difficult to furnish them that way.

I found I could get them printed here at a reasonable price and concluded to publish a small edition with the etchings printed direct just as you suggested, but in thinking over the matter I reasoned who would buy such an expensive book, I then thought on another plan and that is this. I will just read you a circular that I intend sending out. it is not printed yet

Fern Etchings by J.W. -

"a handsome bound vol. of 62 etchings of the ferns of the Western U.S., will shortly be published by John P. Warner & J. Louswiler's. The etchings will be printed on the best Whatman's paper 9x12 This work will contain all the ferns that has been found in the Eastern and Middle States," This then is the idea, I will have no descriptions only the Scientific and common names. I will have no mag-views only the fern natural size either whole or a part. This I think will make a very handsome book being nicely bound and on the cover I will have *Selaginella radicans* stamped and printed in gold. If I can get 50 subscribers I will push it through (not hurry it)

I have concluded to put the price at \$10.00 per copy including mailing, I am busy etching over all my poor plates and possibly will have to call on you for a few ferns. All the plates must be perfect as good as the *A. proclivosa* or *Selaginella*. The plate will be the same size as Fern of N. and if you should undertake your Fern of N.E. the same plate could do you see I do not want to do any thing but what could be utilized. For a popular book "Fern of N." is about right. This book I am considering you can see will appeal more to the artistic taste than the Scientific.

I will send out with the circular a specimen plate at last to the Press, I have concluded to etch *Aspidium fragrans*. Do you think this is an attractive fern. I once thought of *Cheilanthes lanuginosa*. I want a small fern and one that I have not in Fern of N. Now I want to show you my very best work and may send you plates occasionally for your approval. I will send several at a time and will enclose them when writing anyone. I enclose you a better print of *A. proclivosa* than I sent you before. - - - - -  
This is all I remember now. Compt to your family  
Your Sincere Friend  
W. Williams.

Lansville 13

March 5 1852

My Dear Queen parent

Your postal card I received this afternoon and was very indeed to hear of that little accident. I hope I will soon be well I can understand how much you will be put about, you would every minute to count I suppose. The poem you sent a few days ago I read with great interest. Such a friend as your lamented friend Pratt are the salt of the earth. I have lately read Hamerton's fine review of Frenchmen, all noble characters and all worthy to be copied. I took the liberty to make a short extract from your poem for our Evening Post. I think three lines are beautiful. I have pasted them in my scrap book.

Now about my new undertaking I will explain the whole matter. I am perfectly safe from a financial point. They say figures can't be well here in the statement.

Whitman's paper	65 <sup>c</sup>	per copy
Printing plates	65 <sup>m</sup> <sup>c</sup>	" "
Printing ink & names	50	
Binding	75	
	<u>255</u>	

Now I can print, or rather get out 25  
or 100 Copies, at an average of about £.50  
or thereabout, I have no descriptive matter  
+ nothing but the etchings, printed from the  
plates nicely bound, I have 10 subscribers  
now and I have not sent out any circulars  
yet. I am going to send two specimens of plates  
finished in the same style as they will appear  
in the book, to the press. I enclose you one  
of them *Woodia glabella*, the *A. fragrans*,  
in the other one, I think they are both pretty  
fair the little *Woodia* especially,  
how another thing Mr Davenport, I am going to  
dedicate this work to you, and you must  
not object. To you I am indebted for  
many <sup>valuable</sup> hints, and I certainly do not desire  
to ~~just~~ show my gratitude in such a way  
that may be remembered when one may be both  
gone, I want every plate to be good  
of course I cannot please everybody.  
About my second edition I think I had better  
wait until another year I may then be  
able to add a few more species to the  
Key form flora, and another thing I want to  
work over *fertilegata*, thoroughly, and give  
a number of original microscopic drawings  
This winter has been so very cold here that I had

difficulty in keeping the young ferns  
from long enough for examination,  
one word about Dr Foote of Phila  
I think we had better give each other  
our experiences. My business relation with  
him is slight but I would like to give  
you one little incident  
Last year when my book was published he  
wrote me he wanted to exchange books for  
his collection for my Ferns, I made out  
a list, he only sent one, the others he could  
not exchange but would sell, the book he  
sent was *Mosses British Ferns* &c. This was  
a very old edition, I sent him my Ferns & c, and  
was ~~for~~ surprised to find in his next bulletin  
it catalogued at 1.50 when 2.00. was the published  
price, if he was asked it now at that price  
I would not say much, but a new book, and  
one that would be likely to sell, He wrote  
me last week desiring to exchange again but  
I gave him a little of my mind, the fact is  
anything I want to get out I control,  
I am glad you are trying to straighten out the  
Polypody's I have not set that length yet,  
but some one must do it, I was not aware  
the Mr Farnon was an artist. I will watch his  
drawings with interest I have seen some of

Surgeon work he is illustrating  
Meyhans work; Prof Gray's says "his work  
is good for the money," but who can  
make a Chromo respectable

I have written more than I intended  
I have a plate in the acid I must  
attend to it, it is one of your little friends,  
of the family of Botrychae,

Your true friend  
John Williamson

What interest do I think about the  
words in the letter and order I was  
sending you of plates some of which  
are complete - as others wanted  
more plates left out, I had no time  
to finish them up. I get them  
printed all one small make

Louisville Ky  
March - 31. 1874

My Dear Davenport,

Your two P.O. cards  
received, I thank you for the offer to  
send out my circulars, I mail you to night  
a number / I did not get very many printed,  
Your good words regarding Specimens & Etchings  
is very encouraging, I must make an endeavor  
to have every plate in the book like sample  
I will send you specimens proofs. & just  
cutture them, I have received some very complimentary  
letters since I sent out the specimens, and generally  
accompanied with a subscription,  
A letter from an <sup>art</sup> connoisseur in New York, says  
"I hasten to congratulate you upon the beauty of the  
specimens sent upon them fine execution  
and upon the general excellence"

Prof Gray writes, "The Etchings are neat and good,  
and then he says to be useful I ought to have  
directions & details, printed <sup>with</sup> the letter press, and  
by the process of Electro-photography. This is not  
my object at present, and if ever I do any thing of  
that kind I will take a long time and  
make a series of original micro-drawings

but more about that again - all I am after  
now is to have a series of sketches of our  
Native forms, and trying to give each one its  
real character as I find ~~them~~ <sup>it</sup> growing in the  
woods. It is as much from an artistic point  
of view I am working as any other.  
I send you two more specimens, <sup>copies</sup> you can  
hand them to Mr Faxon or Mr Robinson or  
in fact to any one you please  
adieu for the present

Yours & friend  
Williamson

1  
Sourville 17  
April 14 1875

My Dear Mr Davenport

I have just time to  
write a line, your catalogue received  
It is undoubtedly the most perfect work  
of the kind I have ever seen, I will write  
a short notice of it for our Evening Post,  
I am going to arrange my plates according to  
it, and I want you now, when you get  
a little time to advise me about the  
varieties. I do not want to have any  
thing in fern Etchings except  
real typical specimens of each species,  
My look you must remember is as much  
an artistic work as a scientific, I do not  
want to have any more than about 63 or 65,  
you look over & report, by the way I suppose  
you saw the nice compliment I received from  
The (Thunderer) "Nation" I have always been  
afraid of that paper, that notice has brought  
out a number of enquirers, Enclosed find  
three dollars.  
Your sincere friend  
Wm.





and send the one for your approval  
before issuing as soon as you receive  
them. I don't expect having had a review  
I will be able to send a ready one  
You will give a receipt & have left  
out Woodson by mistake. I'll

try not to do so. We shall send  
no more until we get your instructions  
do you think I ought to send out any

I want to make the book as perfect  
as I can so that it do not need to  
be set off again. That is the  
North Eastern U.S.

If not to much trouble send me a  
Woodson by box. *Belyoban simplex*  
and *U. sumneri*. I have a good  
specimen of the latter from Scotland  
but for you to take an excellent  
one. Another thing I don't forget  
this *Ophrys* *locusta* *curiosum*.

I have never seen a specimen  
close at any way from the *virgata*

except in the north.  
Mr Sawport my wife is  
and will be in the  
My friend Wilder says he has  
one in the *Polypodium* *virgata*  
with 3 or 4 specimens.

I have a good deal of material  
to send to you but I have not  
point of view to consider. I have  
an excellent one to send. It has  
been found in that state. I  
I have done every thing I  
can, but I do always the best  
in form of *fig.* do you see I have  
long but will show you the specimens  
have a table for the *virgata*, the  
the *virgata* *virgata*, *virgata*,  
now about my description  
I think I will submit a short  
description as I have no specimens  
copy. copied from *Gray's* *System*  
they have been described in the *System*

book - by John Smith, late

Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens  
of Kew, Member of the Linnæan Socy

&c - and I may say a good Botanist,

This little book is a Catalogue of  
Exotic and Indigenous Ferns, cultivated  
in British gardens, with Characters of  
Genera &c -

Under the head - Dicksoniæ  
he gives, *Sitobium* <sup>Smith</sup> *Balanitium*, Raulf  
(Det.)

*Dicksonia*, L. Kunt. *Eibotium*, Knaff

*Thyrsopteris*, Kunze, In the Genus, *Sitobium*

he gives the following species, *S. punctilobum*,

J. Smith, *Gadleania*, Under J. Smith, *S. danielloides*

&c. &c. - The following Synonymes, he gives

*S. punctilobum*, *Nephrodium punctilobum*, Michx

*Asp. punctilobum*, Sw., *Dicksonia punctiloba*

Hook., *Dicksonia pubescens*, Schkr., *Dicksonia*

*pilosuscula*, Willd., *Sitobium*

*pilosusculum*, Desv., *Narth Amareca*

I do not know if you will understand

this, I do not like to come to conclusions

too hastily in scientific matters, If you

think I ought to change to correspond with

Eaton I will do so, I have no doubt

Louisville Ky

July 14. 1879

My Dear friend Davenport

I enclose you

Woodsia by purchase - I have tried my

best to give the characters he features

of this little fern, I hope you will like

it. I introduced a young frond so as

to show the hairy character. I will

leave you to judge whether I have <sup>shown</sup> made

the mistake character between this and *W.*

*glabella* - I had a letter from a friend

of yours a day or two ago, Mr Woodhouse & I

sent him, *A. dichomanes*, *A. Pringlei*

*A. parvula*, and *Comptosium*, he

wanted the one for drawing. This is quite a

compliment, By the way I must see

Sullivan. I think one of my friends takes it

Now about that P. spinulosum -  
I am delighted to know I have found  
it. I am growing a plant that is  
sending up some new fronds, I  
will then examine it carefully.

About the A. Americanum, I  
really did not know very well what  
to do, before you wrote I had  
my mind made up to stick to  
the old name, now since your  
advice me to do so, I will just  
use the var. intermedium, after I  
get these Catching off my hands  
I will have a thorough overhaul  
of all the species.

The next thing is the Dicksonia  
You say Prof. Eaton is right, of  
course I have no means of knowing  
I have no authorities here that I  
can refer to. I have a little

~~But what the name that a good deal I shall~~  
~~before he made the change,~~

I would like to send you P. Smith's Catalogue  
that is if you have not seen it.

He also had a very high opinion of P. Smith's

but then, my opinion, he made the very changes

and generally, when I had his changes, with the

name of John Smith.

Your sincere friend

John Willson

Louisville 14

My Dear Mr. Peck

I send you to day an *Aspidium*. that I took at first sight to be a real *Sphenocladon*. The light tone of green the character of the lower pinnae and the second chevron of the stipe made me think so, however I am not sure. I only got a few plants, and on one the indusium was just forming I could see no signs of *Cilia*.

I found it in a situation very different from where I found the *Aspidium* intermediate. The var. I never found except in a through sand stone region, the plant I send you is from a place that I find it difficult

To describe geologically

It was growing on the outside skirts  
of a rich wood, being well exposed  
The soil was a mixture of  
leaf mould and sand, the  
outcropping rock was pure limestone  
in fact this section of country is  
limestone, (limestone everywhere)  
but at this particular spot the  
~~soil~~ ground is what we term  
rolling and the soil has a large  
percentage of sand, The place  
gets the name of sand-hill on  
that account, *A. noveboracensis*  
I found in the same locality,  
and in a swamp about 200  
yds distant I found the *A. cristata*  
The *Strophomena radicans*, was sent to me from the  
Mountains Rockcastle Co. It is a poor specimen  
Your friend, J. W. Williams

Loussville, Ky

July 1899

My Dear friend,

Learn & Teach, will be in the bind, to-morrow, I will send you a copy just as soon as it is out, you know I cannot afford to give this book to the reviewers, I may send a copy to the Waterman one to Prof. Gray, If not too much trouble will you be kind enough to show the book to your Clerk and to some of the Salem Gentlemen, I have only printed a few, but if I can get <sup>enough</sup> subscribers I can very easily get out another Ed. I may tell you, it will make a handsome looking book, of course all the

Slater will not please you

I must say your friend Mr Higginson  
of Needham, is an enthusiastic  
admirer of the Etterings,  
He seems to be a man of an  
extremely sensitive nature, he  
sent me a long and interesting letter  
a few days ago,

He also sent me a beautiful  
gift, a very rare and valuable  
book, - Hamerton Etterings and Etterings  
first Ed. To me this work will  
be of great value,

I will return your little plants  
inside the book.

Your sincere friend

John Williams

7

friend's D.

Home my friend



# JOHN WILLIAMSON & Co.

63 & 65 West Market Street,

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Sept 11 1861

Dear Sir,

By Mrs. Redfield,

your favor was received.

I am glad to hear that all the  
L. & C. Co. that you have ordered, for the  
I had to be kept out of the  
and was no longer  
a few more days, but  
any way get out a few more, and  
to put it in my hands at once. I  
subject of your interest at Louisville.

Do not know how you will suit  
know you show to Mrs. & Ester Redfield, Cousins  
I have no less for how what I want you to do  
if you have time. Get the money in any  
Cubert friends & point out all the  
of our distance in the State. I will  
connected in 2<sup>d</sup> vol any hints you  
be appreciated, I must have this as  
as I can get it, although Mrs Redfield says  
it is as nearly perfect as human effort

I am that is a letter to a correspondent  
for the of my enthusiastic about the  
- I am very things to let you know  
come if it will suit you.

I think you would be well to  
find enough & send me a few.

Mr Paul ~~King~~ of New York would like to know  
his ~~log~~ <sup>log</sup>. I must refer to the  
- I saw very little about the  
13. - I think it is very important.

I am not particular  
about what please your self -

One of the things I have seen  
- The last one is a  
- I think it is very  
- I think it is very

Any one wanting the  
I want at least a month, even the  
- I think it is very  
- I think it is very

By the way - I have something else to tell  
you. A correspondent in Leam sends me  
a piece of Sceloporus vulgare collected  
in the mountains of Leam. I will make a note  
of it for the <sup>Journal</sup> Bulletin.

Did I send you your plants Yours  
from Danville Mass -  
I am looking for the other  
- I think it is very  
- I think it is very  
- I think it is very

John Williamson

Louisa, N. H.

Sep 16-

My Dear Friend

I have started in earnest at 2<sup>d</sup> Ed. and now ready for suggestions, I am removing all the numbers entirely, will have the corrections made about crediting the two plants you speak of to Mr Pangle. I think very little, of Mr Koyradt, after what you said, I have always thought him strange, but have had little correspondence with him.

I had a very nice letter today from Mr Watt, "he is much pleased with the book" he says further, "I would like to have sent you *Woodia hyperborea*, your form is not characteristic enough and also *Cypripedium montana* which you omit what has become of *Asplenium dilatatum*,"

*Lonicera* & *Scolopendrium* do you print each?

I have been congratulating myself  
or how hyperborea turned out, I think  
it is pretty good, I only wish they were  
all as good, but I was glad to  
have Mr Watt express himself  
about the Co. Montane I was in  
doubts about ~~using~~ including it  
I may do so in Oct also the  
Achaetan Capitis venens,  
but I think I will not trouble the  
A. dolabellina

I am anxious to see your notice  
in Transcript, I see the  
Boston Advt as often as I went  
but <sup>not</sup> the Transcript,

You are at perfect liberty to  
say what you please, and if  
you mention the faults why  
all the better, I hope my  
dedicating the book to you will  
not influence you the least, the book  
you know must stand on its own

merits, and when you & I  
are both gone the book  
will still be there to speak  
for itself, if it is worthy of  
existence it will live, if not  
it will die as it ought to  
I have gained a correspondent in  
Florida and one in the mountains  
of Penn, I think both will  
turn out to be valuable  
about Mrs Cooper, I had a  
long letter from her that had  
been mis-carried, it reached me  
about a year after it was written,  
she said nothing about remitting,  
I don't know what to think  
about her, I will write her  
in a few days,

Your sincere friend  
John Williamson

Mrs C. Cooper says compliments to you

I think Mr. Faxon makes as much  
out of this art as possible to make  
He has a boldness that Emerson  
never dreamt of. I think Mr.  
Faxon would enjoy working with  
the etching needle, I hardly regret  
the Woodcut hyperborean, is this a typical  
specimen. I have asked Mr. Witt to  
send me a good plate. I think the  
Woodcut hyperborean in Fern Etching is  
one of the best in the book, it has a rich  
tone that few of the others have  
It seems to stand out better. Excuse this  
personal criticism.

Your Sincere Friend  
Wm. Williamson

Louisville Ky

Oct 6 1879

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your P.O card  
received this morning. In regard to the  
A. Lonchitis I think your friend is  
correct. as soon as I saw the first  
proof I noticed that defect, I have  
not printed the plate yet, and  
may make the change, but I will  
consider this carefully first, otherwise I  
think the plate is good. There are  
quite a number of the plates I am  
not altogether satisfied with, and if  
I have not time to correct them for  
in 2<sup>d</sup> ed I certainly will do so  
some time or other. I have nearly finished  
A. capillatovenens and G. punctatus  
The Acharion I think will make a good

I will send proofs in a few days  
I have not yet heard from Estes &  
Lauriat. perhaps I did not make  
them a <sup>very</sup> liberal offer, I offered them  
25¢ per <sup>+</sup> copy. This is the best I will  
do. & to tell you the truth I do  
not care whether they accept it or  
not. I am very independent about  
this. I thank you for calling the attention  
of Mr Stout to the book.

I am anxious to push the book  
myself but can't do anything until  
the notices are out. I have Mr Redfield  
Storrs mechanics - Do you think Mr John  
Robinson or Mr Foxon would endorse  
the book so as I could use it in  
a circular. The notice notice has  
not appeared yet.

I am going up to confer with  
Mr. Brown and may make some  
arrangements with Robert G Clarke  
of W. Large Publisher.

Estes & Lauriat had plenty of time to  
answer, but I am not going to  
make any bargain with any one except  
I get my own terms. Every person  
that has received this book is  
well pleased and they all think it  
is cheap for the amount of work  
put into it.

I had a box of plants sent from  
my Leann friend <sup>living</sup> yesterday. He sent  
a beautiful large specimen of Sceloporus  
I have pressed it & will send you  
& Prof Eaton a piece -

I may tell you however, that I think  
this individual plant has been growing  
in a greenhouse for some time,  
(He did not say so.) I have written  
for a few other specimens that were  
collected in the original locality.

I have received Eaton ferns & etc  
I like the plates very much.

The drawing and drooping habit is  
all right, (read Eaton's description) -  
but the coloring of the plate is not  
satisfactory, as I said before it wants  
a little more life, it is too much  
like a pressed specimen. That is the  
trouble with all scientific work  
and Emmerton ~~pressed~~ drawings  
were spared in that way, he never  
saw beyond the object lying before him.

The true artist must feel that he  
is in the woods and holding converse  
with his favorite.

I am having two new stamps made  
for the over, and I think this  
Ed. is going to look well. I will  
send the one you ordered to the Horticultur-  
al Society, so you can see it.

I must also give Mr. Hoppin a copy  
he sent me such a nice gift.

I enclose you the new plate of  
*Pellaea gracilis*, it is very much like  
*C. acris* - *schreb.*, I tried to have it look  
so delicate as I could, yours sincerely  
J. P. M.

Nov - 5

My Dear Mr. Davenport

Your letter and Mr.  
Robinson's Review of Fern Etching  
was received, I certainly could  
not have wished for a better  
notice, after reading such a review  
I am afraid any one getting the book  
will be disappointed, about this  
I do ~~but~~ I had thought very little,  
~~about it~~, except that it  
would very likely be the natural  
result, Mr. Robinson must have reasoned  
in this way. You know I would  
never do for me to be sold, and  
as I have made a partial success  
at Fern Etching, I am anxious to

to pursue Mrs. King's suggestion. My friends  
tell me I ought to try Landscape and  
Figure &c - but I am not going  
to be coiled away from my first  
love. I have a great deal to do yet  
even in the illustration of Laws,  
Magnificent figures of the reproductive organs  
would be a beautiful subject,  
you will be the first to hear of  
any thing new. By the way what about  
your "New England Friends their allies"  
I sent Mr. Robinson Pierce to Coulters  
I hope she will get it in. I made no  
changes, but the article is so long  
that I fear he will not accept it  
I have promised to take a number  
of copies. The Lary Bulletin  
made its appearance your notice must  
have been crowded out. I will get  
along very well with the reviews I have

already got, I don't do to have  
them all appear at once anyhow  
I suppose you have read the  
Scelopendrii article. This is all right  
My correspondent is now visiting South  
Pittsburg, and I expect a lot of plants  
in a few days. The specimens he sent  
me were brought from this place about  
six months ago and planted in  
a greenhouse at Nashville Tenn.  
He was a little put out when I asked him  
if he was quite sure the <sup>Linn</sup> ~~plant~~ was  
not planted there,

You must remember me to your  
Lady friend from Maine, I should  
like to see some of her work.  
I would be willing to exchange any  
of my Etchings for any small flowers  
just the best. I am not very well  
satisfied with the Capillus-veneris



Louisville Ky -

Dec-7

My Dear Friend

Your letter received, I was glad to hear the outcome of the Chelcanther matter. Your last letter was rather disparaging. I was very anxious to hear from you. I assure you I am exceedingly glad at the result. It is also a matter of great pleasure to me to have you speak in such high terms of my 2<sup>d</sup> ed. No one knows the amount of work better than I do, that is put in this book, I tried to be careful with every detail. The Chelcanther I will remove as soon as I can. If I could afford to give you a copy of 2<sup>d</sup> ed I would gladly do so, but I must be just before generous.

I could put one to you at the regular discount \$6.00. I do not know yet how I am going to come out yet, try and get me one or two subscribers, I mean of course in a legitimate way. I have only printed 50 copies of 2<sup>d</sup> ed and 20 are sold, I think

There would be no difficulty in getting rid of them all  
I have not heard from Mr Faxon yet, and I think you  
mentioned a friend of yours in Malden who spoke about  
a copy. The book is an expensive one and of course  
I do not expect many will buy, but I believe  
it will be a rare one, it cannot be reproduced  
in quantities, like any other book, ~~except~~ by the  
transferring process, you then have only a common book.  
I was glad to have the endorsement of a gentleman like  
Mr Whipple. I value his opinion very highly. It is hard to  
get anyone not specially interested in ferns to give  
this book a fair examination. Artists as a general thing  
have no patience with special studies, except something they  
are interested in themselves. Figure, landscape, Portraiture, &c.  
I fear they would hardly recognise this work as art - a man  
like Hans <sup>and especially artists</sup> Eaton I have no doubt would, but few men have  
such a broad view of art as he has. I am going to  
take a rest now. If I can, will be glad to hear from  
you. By the way I would like Prof Gray to see the book  
from his correspondence with me I think he is opposed to etching  
as a means of illustrating. I had a long letter from Mr  
Higginson, send him a copy, he seems greatly pleased with the book  
Your sincere friend, W

It is the least any man is justifiable.  
It seems to me that Pref Eaton, with  
the artist could have told pretty near  
how many hours it would take to  
complete this work.

I am very sorry to hear of your friend  
Mr Robinson's loss. If I was alive I  
should like to give presents to some of  
my friends, but not now.

I am glad to see Heggison is so pleased  
with his copy he sent me his Photo. he  
is a fine looking man, but a little of  
sent you them. This would be well worth  
to pay for any of us so we must struggle  
along. I have had plenty of hard work  
and it don't seem to lighten as I grow  
older. I am also glad to have the good  
opinion of your artist friends. The  
trouble about artists. The most of them  
are narrow minded. I believe few  
artists would recognize my work  
as meritorious. Their ideas of Art are  
very lofty. I intend to send one of  
these books to Hamerton. he is the most  
interesting writer on art subject I know of  
by the way have you got your Photographs  
about if you have I should like one  
I have furnished Mr Heggison I would send  
mine. I am not sure to this much I  
have none now but will probably  
send the Photographs in a day or two.  
I show the books around but don't loose too much time  
I have not at that is. Yours Sincerely  
+ 120  
Frederic

I am sorry to hear of your friend  
Mr Robinson's loss. If I was alive I  
should like to give presents to some of  
my friends, but not now.  
I am glad to see Heggison is so pleased  
with his copy he sent me his Photo. he  
is a fine looking man, but a little of  
sent you them. This would be well worth  
to pay for any of us so we must struggle  
along. I have had plenty of hard work  
and it don't seem to lighten as I grow  
older. I am also glad to have the good  
opinion of your artist friends. The  
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are narrow minded. I believe few  
artists would recognize my work  
as meritorious. Their ideas of Art are  
very lofty. I intend to send one of  
these books to Hamerton. he is the most  
interesting writer on art subject I know of  
by the way have you got your Photographs  
about if you have I should like one  
I have furnished Mr Heggison I would send  
mine. I am not sure to this much I  
have none now but will probably  
send the Photographs in a day or two.  
I show the books around but don't loose too much time  
I have not at that is. Yours Sincerely  
+ 120  
Frederic

My dear Mr. Sargent

I think I must be the  
most stupid fellow in this  
community. I looked over these  
books carefully and here I could  
overlook such a mistake I cannot  
understand. I spoke to the book  
binder about these errors and he  
said they could be easily remedied  
by a practical binder. I would like  
you to attend to them for me and  
and whatever damage will be remitted  
if to 30c will not take the book.  
I of course will send another.

I know it was a great deal of work  
to arrange my plates correctly.  
do what you can for me and I will  
try and repay you with interest -  
In your copy I will reflect your name

as you desire, I am aware some  
are better prints than others.

Edw. printing is an art. & I have  
much to learn yet.

I am afraid I am going to have more  
trouble with Cassino.

You know I exchanged 40 copies  
of "Terms of 13" for 4 sets of Fern &  
Ha I induced some friends to  
subscribe telling them that I would  
guarantee they would not be  
required to pay any more than ~~20~~ 20<sup>00</sup>.  
It was explicitly stated that the sets  
were to be complete.

When he (Cassino) ordered the Fern & Ha  
I was a little dubious about sending  
it. I suspected <sup>send it at once he will as usual</sup> he wrote a  
second time for the copy, & he  
sure to give him the best discount  
I sent the book and told him to remit  
at once because I needed the  
money.

George Elders

if I understood that the bargain  
such and such a way, he somewhat  
acknowledges his mistake by saying  
"If you think it should be more  
these will shall not quarrel with you"  
he then appeals to my sense of fairness,  
he is a nice fellow to talk about  
fairness, why did he not speak  
about this when the 20 parts were  
published, he wanted to get a copy of  
Fern & Ha in his possession,  
why did he ask for the best discount  
when he intended it should be an  
exchange, he also promised to  
add my "Terms of 13" in exchange for  
the set I gave him but it  
never appeared, I have just as  
great a desire to be fair as any one  
but I despise such a selfish  
man as he is, he is the typical  
Faintest eye read about,  
he has got one book out of me out

to the publishers or the Editor  
but I do not like to run any  
great risks. Cassin and I  
have some little trouble on hand  
and if it should come to his  
ears he may change the color  
of the Review, so probably the  
best one ~~now~~ to see would  
be the Editor or some of his  
best friends

But it looks to me as rather  
cheeky on my part to manufacture  
friendly notices. I do not desire  
any special favors. all I do  
want that the book will be treated  
as it deserves and by some competent  
person.

I was very sorry indeed to hear of  
your eyes troubling you again.  
I do hope they will soon be all right.  
I enclose you my Photo. I am anxious to  
see how you look. I have Mr. Hoffman  
Remember his to your family, Yours Sincerely friend J. W.

Louisville Ky  
Jan 4 1850

Dear Mr. Davenport,

I am getting all mixed  
up with dates. I have written  
two letters this morn and dated  
the Doc - 1849 - but we have  
commenced another year, and I  
see the newspapers and a number  
of very wise folks say it is a time  
for reflection. My opinion is one  
day is as good for that purpose as  
another and he who does not  
reflect every day must be a very  
stupid fellow. one thing I  
do hope that business will  
be more remunerative the  
coming year than the four or  
five past years. we all have

a desire to get on, in the  
world, and to be well thought  
off. I do not say that every thing  
has to be sacrificed to get rich  
in worldly goods, but I believe  
riches ought to be respected.

I am afraid I am not made of  
the right material to make money  
there is a peculiar faculty, and  
possessed by quite a number in this  
Country, but I am going to do  
what I can to get on.

I received your requested letters  
with the enclosed money.

Many thanks you must deduct  
any money you are out of pocket  
on  $\frac{1}{2}$  life I will send to ~~you~~  
the plate Woodcut organ.

I hope you will get the two  
books sent, if now just  
return them until I let you

know. I have examined several  
Copies since and they are all  
right will I send you another  
one to Mr Bushnell.

Have you seen the American Art  
Review, I have good mind to  
send a copy then if I thought  
some competent person would  
review the book, the Editor is E. S.  
Hocheur, I have subscribed for the  
work and I think it is a  
very worthy publication, Estes & Haun  
are the publishers, a Review in their  
work from an artistic point would  
be appropriate I think, as the Magazine  
devotes most of its space to the  
Art of Etching, I am going to  
send one to Hamerton Editor  
of the Portfolio London,  
if I could accomplish that I  
would hand over <sup>copy</sup> one of the  
van & Eckings

books, you know I am just  
as much interested in Art matters  
as in Scientific studies, they  
are both fascinating.

Pure Science is apt to make one  
too much of a specialist,  
but I am aware that to be thorough  
in any thing one must specialize  
but really what can we  
accomplish with our limited  
time. I have just been working  
until nearly ten o'clock  
so you must excuse this  
rambling letter.

I imagine Higginson must  
laugh at my letters they are  
always written in a hurry  
will be glad to hear from you  
Your ever sincere friend,  
John Willard

Southernville 18—

Jan 30 1880

My Dear Overport

Your letter was received,  
Thanks for getting the books fixed  
up. If the Society refuse to take  
that copy let me know & I will  
send another. I have about 75 letters  
left yet, I had an order yesterday from  
Lawrence Town. I had an enquiry  
this morning from Canada, I think  
they will soon be all sold. If  
Mr Robinson should wish a copy I  
will let him have it a little cheaper.  
I have heard nothing whatever about  
the California matter you refer to  
Did you hear of any thing?  
The Opuntia matter I will  
give next week. I am very busy

present, I have a friend who is  
a Surgeon in the U.S.A. he is  
stationed at Port Loncho Texeira but  
is often on the borders of here Mesericó  
This County has not be ~~botanized~~  
very carefully, he will send me  
everything he can lay hands on in  
the way of ferns, When I feel  
puzzled I will call on you

About your new undertaking  
I don't know well what to say  
It seems to me it ought to be  
successful. In England they have  
quite a number of books of that  
class. Do you intend to illustrate,  
the genera I think ought to be figured  
I should like to make your illustrations  
wood cuts as very expensives & set  
up, the printing of the wood cut  
is very cheap, much cheaper than  
the lithograph. I am anxious to

hear your plan. The text book  
feature I am inclined to think  
will hardly do. I mean that few  
schools will care about introducing  
the study of ferns as a specialty.  
When you write give me all  
the particulars, and if I can be  
of any assistance call on me.

By the way I had an enquiry  
from England for *Thuchonius*  
*Petersii* and *Hymnophyllum*  
*sylvaticum*. Do you <sup>know</sup> any thing  
of the latter, I don't.

Be sure now and send me  
your photo as soon as you  
get it. Mr Higginson sent me  
his. I am now having a  
very pleasant correspondence  
with him, he is a charming  
writer, and we seem to be  
both interested in the same class?



Louisville Ky

March 25 1882

My Dear Mr. Deceper,

Your letter came to hand also the ferns please accept  
thanks I have had a time to look at the job, we are very busy  
and working late, I regret to hear of the terrible dearth of  
ferns of this kind.

I will always remember how kindly he spoke of  
you about my effort in an artistic way. I am sorry to hear of  
your ~~condition~~ being so poor I know how anxious you are to  
do work. I hope you will soon be able to resume your hand book  
but I think you ought to take a little more recreation this summer.

In your letter, you think I ought to go on with the ferns until  
I have them all etched, I thought so myself some time ago,  
but I have come to the conclusion to let them rest a little while.  
I want to get a good collection of all the ferns of N.A. and  
make my etchings from the best typical specimens I can get,  
another thing, there is a peculiar effect to be produced in some  
of the Californian species that I am not sure about. In colored  
lithography it is comparatively easy to get that effect, but in  
Black and White it is more difficult. However I do not intend  
to abandon the ferns. I look forward to a long life and

intend to make every minute count. The Orchidaceae is a Met. Ord  
I have always had a hankering after. I want to study flower form  
I do not know whether I shall ever publish anything on the subject  
but merely for my own pleasure I will take this up.  
Another thing I have been so absorbed with my fern studies the  
last two or three years that I neglected other things, for instance  
I want to spend most of my spare time in the woods this coming  
summer, taking notes and observing natural ways generally.  
I went out one afternoon last week and collected quite a number of  
young flowers. I must tell you of a curious form of the spatula  
I found. instead of the delicate flower coming up first as is always  
the case, in one plant there were two curious formed leaves, with five  
regular lobes. The stem was similar to those that bear flowers on the  
other plants, I intend sending the plant to Mr. Thos. Meehan, who  
may be interested in this abnormal form.

I send you a part of European Ferns sent me by my English  
Correspondent, I am a little disappointed with the treatment of Pteris.  
The text seems full of Fern lore, I thought probably you might like to  
see this. I am promised all the numbers of this work, by the way  
what about Eaton's Fern of N. A. I have not heard a word about  
this for a long time. The last number I have is L. 23.

Our mutual friend Mr. Pygmy is now in Boston, I suppose you have seen him.  
He is a delightful correspondent. He is looking after some art matters for  
me in connection with the American Art Review. I have had as time  
to print your copy of Fern Etchings yet, you know my business has to be attended  
to first, but I have not forgotten you. Your cordial friend, John Williamson

be described as a fern like spray, on page  
76 The fern vegetation shown across  
the page you can see is a little out of  
drawing. It is too top heavy, instead of  
introducing the reading matter under the  
ground, but had filled up the space with  
a few small grasses or green ferns. It would  
have added greatly to the picture. If you should  
see Harper give me your opinion, but the  
whole article is a most charming one.

Page 79. The Bee here, is complete in every sense,  
only one suggestion I would make, the bees going  
towards the hive, <sup>the honey</sup> had been represented as  
coming from a distance. This could have been  
done by introducing another bee or probably  
better by bringing down the blackberry  
foliage a little lower. It is a great pleasure  
to me to see such work as this. I think  
Mr Gibson is from New England, I should like  
to know him. I have not heard from  
Mr Higginson for a long time, I may write  
him to day. I shall be glad to hear  
from you as often as you can  
We hurry about Fern Etchings, I have not  
printed any thing for a long time it is very  
hard and dirty work. If I had not done the  
printing however I could have been very much behind  
too expensive a book to sell. Yours F. Williamson

May 22 1880

My Dear Mr Dovesford

Your letter came to hand  
I was glad to hear from you again. I was  
pleased to hear that you were in good spirits  
and in better health than you had been.  
I shall look forward with interest to  
the May Bulletin. I cannot conceive what  
Cassino is doing with my Ferns of N. A.,  
Accidently does not intend to send me  
without me sending him copies of Fern Etchings,  
I must get the numbers of course, because  
I am responsible for it. Besides my  
own. I will write to him about this  
(He is a sharper) I would like to know  
your plan about your (Fern Books.)  
I have now received 9 parts of "Ferns from Ferns"  
by Prof. Britton. I sent you part 7. Please  
take care of it, as my correspondent says he  
will send me all the parts as they come out.

The work is treated in a very popular style  
I was amused to see the leather used  
the Root from Sachs, just as I did, it  
may be a very good wood cut, but as you  
know as well as I do, it is a very poor  
illustration of a *Pteris* rhizome.

If you should like to see the parts of this work  
I would send them, at least one or two,  
About two years ago I made some experiments  
with fern spores, especially the genus *Asplenium*.  
I thought under certain conditions I might possibly  
get *Asplenium idemivale*. I planted the spores  
of *A. pennsylvanicum*, *A. thomsonii*, *A. complanatum*, *A. Bradleyi*  
and *Montanum*. I planted them mixed and  
also in separate pots. I did not succeed in  
getting any hybrid, but I found that  
*A. pennsylvanicum* was very easy of cultivation  
from spores and it makes a most beautiful  
plant when it is fully grown. I will send  
you a specimen. *Cheilanthes* <sup>vestita</sup> I find grows  
very easily, and will also make a lovely green  
house fern. The *Cheilanthes* I could detect  
from the first germ ground, the others were more difficult

When you write your book it would be well  
to get all the material you possibly can get  
brought off. I have access to a good green-  
house and gardener, who will do me  
any favor I want. He has been growing  
Orchids for me, a Mr. Gilbert of Southwick, Mass  
sent me a lot of bulbs and roots. These I had  
planted and are now doing nicely. I  
am only making drawings at present.

I find them very interesting, but we have very  
few here. They are more difficult to manage  
than the ferns, but I want to get a  
knowledge of them, and light and shade  
and, but studying the orchidaceae I think I  
will accomplish my purpose.

There is a charming article in Harper's for June  
by W. H. Gibson. To be able to do such work  
as that would be my ambition. He is  
a true artist and poet. In page 44 he  
says, "The fern like spray of Solomon's seal,  
swinging its little row of straw coloured bells from  
the edge above" Now this to me is the only objectionable  
passage in the whole article. The Solomon's seal can hardly

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

## BRASS FOUNDERS,

Manufacturers of Railway and Street Car Trimmings,

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp; C

Louisville, Ky. June 26. 1880

My Dear Mr. Davenport

Your letter I received this A.M. I have a spare moment to write. I have not yet received the numbers of Ferns of W.A. containing Hoyrath's fern. You seem not to have any hesitancy in dubbing him Ferned. I think you may include Cassini. I have written time and again for the remaining parts of the ferns he is always going to send them next day. I should like to meet him and give him a bit of my mind. Well about Spinalosus I sent you two living spores collected by me this season at the same locality I found them last year. I do not believe there are fifty plants in this locality, but from my investigations they are the true Spinalosus or var bulgare of Estes. Hoyrath has been writing to me wanting A. ebeneoides. He is very anxious to get this but you know I cannot make it grow. I have searched faithfully for it. I sent him all I could spare of Lichman's radicans A. Kudlyi. Montana & - - He promised to send me a nice lot of Orchids but I have to see the first one yet. I suppose he is worth watching. What I can do in the way of Spinalosus for you I will do with pleasure.



Louisville Ky

Sept 5 1870

My Dear Mr Davenport

I have been very busy since I got back from my little trip, and the weather has been very warm and at night after business I was tired out, I will make you up a package of ferns at once, sending you the spinulosus I collected.

I wish you had been with me to enjoy that Cascade, amid the hurry and cares of business. It returns to my mind as well defined as when I first saw it. I do earnestly hope this spot will be preserved in its primitive purity and beauty. From a number of letters I have received from interested parties I think it will be taken care of. I have done what I could for its

preservation, my object as you know  
is purely from a scientific point of view,  
I read your article on Ferns. from  
Syracuse Courier, with interest  
By the way was Dr Gray's paper  
on Rocky Mountain vegetation published  
I should liked to read it. Are you a  
Member of this Association, They sent me  
a <sup>invitation</sup> Circular to join, but I do not care  
for these things. And I suppose every body  
can become a member if he has \$8.00  
to spare. "I'll put my money where it will do  
the most good" I have not heard from  
friend Higgins for a long time. I hope he is  
well. I had a letter from James Britten, F.L.S.,  
author of European Ferns. I also enclose you  
the Nature Criticism of Fern Etchings. I had it  
printed on Postal Card. I have a few left yet  
I thought this may get rid of them.  
I must not forget your copy. but I have  
done no printing for a long time.  
Do you know Mr. Geo Bates. Naturalists Agency  
Salem; is he reliable. he wants Ferns of ly  
to sell on commission,  
will be glad to hear from you. Your sincere friend  
John Williams



1  
Dec. 1/43

Louisville Ky -

My Dear Mr Davenport

I was very glad to receive your last letter, not hearing from you for some time I feared your health had been rather worse than usual, I will be pleased to hear the particulars about the Fern book, It will be impossible for me to say how long it will take to make the illustrations for the genera, I am very busy now and my time is limited, let me know how many illustrations altogether the book will require, the sooner I know the better I will be able to make my plans, I also want to know the size of the page. The illustrations must be first class and

Not hurried, I had a long  
letter from Mr Higginson a few  
days ago, he is well and in  
better spirits than he used  
to be I was glad of this  
will welcome your next  
letter

Your sincere friend  
John Williamson

2

Louisville Ky

Feb 13 1857

Dear Mr Davenport

Your letter was duly received  
was sorry to hear that you were  
troubled with your eyes. This is very  
trying weather, convey my thanks  
to your daughter Ella, and tell her  
I shall be very glad to hear from  
her again. I was very anxious to  
get your letter I felt that time  
was wasting and as this will  
be a long job I wanted to get  
to work, but I could not do a  
thing until I got the size of  
the plate. I think the Gray's Manual

size will be a good one, for this reason, I intend to have a separate plate for each genus, and I can manage this on the "Manual" size as easy, at least nearly so, as on the larger size.

The Synopsis Filicin size is rather small for two genera, therefore if I make my illustrations come within the border line of Gray's Manual illustrations, Grasses, &c. - This will make a very good size. The printed matter might be a shade larger all round, but that is a matter of taste. I like to see a good broad margin of white paper in books of this class. The Synopsis Filicin must have a very small margin if the illustration plate is  $4\frac{5}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . If I had been going to illustrate the species I would have preferred the large page, but as the Fig. will be sections mag. - I think the Manual size is the best. In Etching I can manage the smaller plate much easier, you need not send me any material until I want it. I am well supplied. It will take me some time yet before I can show you any work. I will make at start'd once -

Your friend  
Wm. W. Mead

At to some of your friends.

If nothing comes of it why no  
matter, I sent one <sup>of another design</sup> plate to a  
gentleman in Boston about six  
weeks ago but he does not seem to  
be much interested except he said  
it was a gem of beauty & etc  
But you know Kentucky as a bad  
place to look for art therefore  
the less said about that the better,

I know no one in Boston that  
I could trust better than yourself  
either from an artistic or a  
Business point of view I wish  
to know if you think the work is good  
and likely to be saleable, if so  
this may be a means of profit to  
us both. I shall be glad to  
hear from you. Remember me kindly  
to your family. I read with great pleasure  
your daughter's success at School  
Sincerely yours John Williamson

Louisville Ky

Oct 2 1851

My Dear Mr Davenport

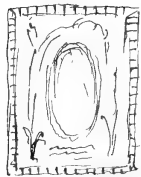
It is a long time since I  
heard from you. I hope you are  
well. I have had a very busy  
summer but whether I have  
accomplished much or not is a  
question. I was never able to  
get away <sup>to the mountains</sup> and that was a great  
disappointment. but we must put  
up with those things. This has been  
a very warm and unpleasant  
summer in this region. I do not  
know what I would give to  
smell the Sea breezes once more,  
I have made up my mind to go  
ahead with the fern book this coming  
winter. That is the only time I can do  
real good work. and I want you  
to write out all your plans

I see that Estes & Lauriat advo  
~~had~~ Beautiful Wild flowers of America  
and Beautiful Ferns of America  
compiled by Miss Estes. I suppose  
this will be a collection of a few of  
the plates from Ferns of N.A.

I think I wrote to you some time  
ago about a new decorative style of  
work ~~some time ago~~. I would like  
to tell you some more about this.  
In fact I have half a notion to  
send you a sample.

I do not wish to bore you with this  
although it is somewhat of a business  
affair, as you are somewhat  
in the "Picture line" I will  
explain a frame I made the  
last week. I had a photo  
of our late President and  
I concluded to make a frame  
for it. The picture is what  
would be termed Cabinet size

My Etched frame forms a mat  
This sketch will give you  
some idea - on the mat I  
have etched ferns daisies and  
grasses. The daisies are grown  
represented as growing with vapour  
one taller than the rest has apparently



received an accident this is shown  
broken and hanging by a thread.  
to the right of this and above it I  
have introduced a butterfly which  
you will see is significant.  
Underneath the portrait the beautiful  
lines from Lemmyer's "In Memoriam"  
"In moving up from high to higher  
Becomes on Fortunes crowning slope  
The pillar of a Peoples hope  
The centre of a worlds desire"  
If you think you would like to see  
this I would express it to you  
at once it may be possible that  
you could do something with it  
in a business way - you may show

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

68 &amp; 68 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. *Oct 7* 1881

My Dear Davenport

I have expressed you  
one of our Garfield frames with Photograph  
I hope it will reach you all right and that you  
will be able to do something with it  
you can show it to your friends at  
least, some admirers <sup>of our late President</sup> who have a few spare  
dollars may be advised to purchase

If you are not able to do anything with it  
probably you can recommend some good house  
I want your criticisms anyhow, and you know  
I am always open for advice,

The design I make on these frame are nearly  
all alike, the arrangement of the glowers and  
ferns I sometimes modify to suit my fancy  
of course if any special design was wanted  
if not too elaborate, it could be introduced.

Enclose bill so as we can keep matters straight  
This frame is complete, it is intended to sit on a small  
Easel on parlor table. I shall be glad to hear from you  
as soon as you receive this  
Yours Sincerely, J. W. Williamson

However you can easily find  
out, what they are worth by  
conversing with a few of your  
Art loving friends,

I am in no hurry for the Gasfield  
frame, Remember me to  
Higgins and Mr Low

I have often thought about sending  
Mr Higgins in a small piece  
of my work but have been very  
busy. Tell Mr Low I have gotten  
up a very good tile frame with  
etched panels, one I sent home  
to day I wish you had seen  
it one of the panels I used the  
Golden rod this panel was about  
2 1/2 inch high so I had a good  
chance to work out my ideas  
around the Golden rod I entwined  
a morning glory I kept the morning glory  
in silver with the Golden rod yellow.  
I want to hear from you as soon as you get

My way of reading with others your  
has been on Gasfield, if ever in hand  
your friend John K.

Louisville Ky  
Nov 1887

My Dear friend Davenport

Your letter was received  
this A.M. It gave me great  
pleasure to have the criticisms of  
your friends and especially from  
Mr Doane. I know what Lowell  
can do in the way of engraving  
I have been a great admirer of their  
work and to tell you the truth  
get some of my suggestions from  
their cards. I am sorry I did  
not communicate with you long  
ago about this work. I have depended  
upon some others that were recommended  
to me but I have been putting  
off for six weeks and have  
had no satisfaction.

I will not refer to your criticisms  
at present. I thank you  
for your good judgment, but  
more about this again.



I will express to you this evening on Monday three of my Etched Plates as I call them (see Webster) I <sup>sent</sup> them with nice frames of any kind they have a slight coat of lacquer to prevent them from tarnishing, you can show them to the Art Antiques, you can place them temporary in frames of suit your self; what I want of course is to sell them, To do this successfully they must be well endorsed and handled by the very best house, now I leave that to you, whether this work ought to go to the Jewelry trade or the Picture Store, Williams and Everett is a name that has been mentioned to me quite often, but if I sent this work to them and told them it was made in Kentucky I am afraid, that would be the end of it, Another thing I

Don't put probably a good newspaper notice would not do any harm, I believe it is worthy of some recognition of course I do not want any praise that will be out of proportion to the work, I am willing that you should present one of these plates to the prosper party whom you think would appreciate it, I leave this matter in your hands,

Regarding the cost this is a difficult matter, you know art work is gauged in price according to the reputation of the artist, the lowest possible price that I would take for one with the quotation "we are in lower land to day" is \$15.00

Oak tree with Oak leaf border \$20.00  
and the plate without any border \$12.00

These prices are subject to a discount to the trade of 20 per cent,

If the trade should desire a larger discount they must put the price up

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 7 1881

Dear Mr Davenport

Since writing last I have thought of one or two things, Of course I do not want you to sacrifice too much of your time I know the value of time myself, but I know no one in Boston that I have more confidence in than yourself, and will be advised altogether by your judgement regarding my new work. I have thought over one thing that is in introducing this work to the public would it not be better for some time to keep my name in the back ground, I do hate any deception but I am located in such an outlandish State, as far as art is concerned, that if known will certainly be against me, The people here want every thing from Boston or New York, it is common talk, I know educated people are liberal and judge every thing on its merits, but the majority of buyers who have no opinion of their own must go to Tiffany or Williams & Everett. I suppose you know that, If there is anything in this work that can be utilized in a decorative way I would like to place it in the hands of a good man or firm, whom I would make some business arrangements with, that of course would be remunerative if it should become fashionable and well endorsed I have not the least doubt but what it would

be preferable, but it must get a good send off. Your letter was a very gratifying one, and has given me a good deal of encouragement, but I am not too sanguine I have had hopes blasted before and have begun to know the world pretty well. I once had an idea I should like to visit Boston and New York about stoves and other things, but every thing has been so uncertain I did not know what to do. If there is any encouragement I may pack up my traps and go. My partner was very anxious that I should take out a patent on stoves, I thought that it would be money thrown away because it could hardly stand the test, however seeing him so anxious I made application through a first class patent lawyer in Washington, he reported favorably much to my astonishment, the letters patent are not granted yet but will be in a few days, stoves have more particular reference to a mantle frame. I seem the application of etched designs on brass for purposes of decoration is something new, then to me is a small matter and I would hardly make use of it. What is your opinion? ~~The plates sent~~ I was troubled a great deal about the framing of those plates, so I concluded to place them in this metal frame just to protect them from getting tarnished or scratched the whole thing can be inserted in another frame as you suggest, and show a very narrow margin of silver. Now if you get any orders for the Garfield frames I can furnish you with the Etched metal <sup>only</sup> which of course will be cheaper. I have written to Mr. Low about my tile frames and also to Higginson to call and see the plates I sent to day.

Sincerely your friend  
Wm. Williams

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. Nov 17 1881

My Dear friend

I am afraid I am going to bore you again if so just say so, but you are the only one in Boston that I know who will undertake what you promise to do. I have been expecting to hear from Mr Low for several days, in answer to an enquiry about a first class Mantle house, or dealer in tile frames - I have a frame ~~at~~ ready to ship and am in doubt who to send it too, a bad start might spoil the whole business. Now I think I will send it to your care I would like you to see it anyhow. If any dealer is decided one afterwards you can have an express wagon to take it to the proper address. My expense you are at in regard to this matter charge to me. I enclose you wood cut of two styles of tile frames, one with Etched panels and the other with cast panels in brass or bronze, all that we are interested in furnishing is of course the frame. The tiles and other trimmings can be had anywhere. If any party however want the whole thing complete as represented on the wood cut we can very easily supply them. In your posted card you mention that Mr Low suggested some process of duplicating. I thought about that but and made some enquiries, Now don't you think if we

was duplicating the work it would cheapen it to much  
and make it common. One of the principal points  
I make in reference to the frames is in the great variety  
of designs ~~with~~ going to the expense of getting up  
a pattern. of course, could the work be largely used in  
decorative art when a repetition of designs <sup>the same</sup> was wanted  
then it would pay to have them duplicated, however if  
the work is acceptable to decorators independent of the  
price I think some means can be had to cheapen it if  
necessary. Mr Forbes a Boston gentleman was in our  
office about a week ago, he was exceedingly well pleased  
with our mantle work and advised me by all means  
to send it to Boston. he advised me to send it to the  
Murdock Parlor Grate Co 21 Washington Street  
Mr Shaw the manager of the concern is a particular friend  
of Mr Forbes, I have no doubt but what this is a first class  
house, but before sending I concluded to wait until I hear  
from Mr Low who will be more apt to know better than any  
other one. The etching on these frames are not so delicate  
as the Pattern or the Memorial frame they are treated broader  
and bolder the frame sent is no extra job but a fair  
sample of our work in that line. any improvements or  
suggestions will be appreciated. the top panel I have used  
a conventionalized form and left the brass surface somewhat  
frosted like the golden rod is a favorite with me you see.  
I love to do this work. I hope if it should prove a success some other  
will not steal the profit or the glory from me. what is wanted is  
some good honest fair dealers will control it to our mutual interest  
Sincerely Yours John Williamson

Franklin I am afraid some time to do a little from sketches I have plenty  
in reference to you in the other days

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway &amp; Street Car Trimmings,

K

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp;C.

Louisville, Ky. Dec. 1881

My Dear Davenport

Your letter received, I suppose you are very busy, at least I hope so. I have been very busy and am now with my Patern, I think they are going to take, I was pleased with your letter and the criticisms of your friend Mr John A. Powell. I always imagined these things looked a little like his expression, that is the small plates, The ornamentation of the tile frame I believe is all right, this is more in my own line, but landscape I confess I am an amateur in the truest sense of the word, I never even attempted to draw a landscape before. This and have made up my mind to quit it except in the most simple manner. I am now doing some groups of flowers and ferns, in the form of square plates and plaques, and mounting them in velvet, I have ~~also~~ had some orders for Decorative Palettes, these really looked very nice, I made one with the beautiful Adiantum spreading itself gracefully all over the face of the Palette, I have more orders now

Then I can fill before Christmas, I must try and send  
you some of my latest. This is work that I delight to  
do and if it should turn out to be a success  
I may be fortunate yet, another thing I want  
to tell you, we have a few very rich men who are  
disposed to encourage art not only the higher art  
of Painting and the like but decorative art, one gentleman  
whom I have known in a business way for some  
years is building a handsome house and both  
himself and wife are determined to make this as elegant  
a home as money can procure. They have bought the  
best wall papers that are made, they have employed  
frescoes from New York and imported other fancy goods  
from London and Paris, they have both taken quite an  
interest in my work, and ordered one pair of Plaques  
to be presented to the Managers of the Winter Art Exhibition  
in London, thus I must spread myself on other two  
plaques to ~~give~~ a friend in Boston, a few other  
things for their own family, and an order to  
go to work and decorate one of the rooms of the new  
house, this troubles me a little I am a great  
stickler of having every thing in good taste, to put  
those Patterns on indiscriminately would be bad-taste  
I would not for the world have a New York or Boston artist  
enter any of the rooms of this house and say, this  
work may be good but it is entirely out of place

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &C.

Louisville, Ky. \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_\_\_

I have few friends to advise me here, to tell you the truth a fellow like Lowell is a perfect God send to a student who wants to improve, however I will try my hand and tell you the result, if you have any suggestions to make when you get time, I shall be pleased to here from you, By the way I may say that Wm a Lowell at least the firm must know my rich friend here in a business way Mr George Buchanan of the Newcome Buchanan Co., I have never heard from Low. I have written him twice, I thought the tile frame would be the very thing, I believe I know every thing that is in the market, at least what is advertised, and I have had the opinion of two men in the same business (New Yorkers) they both said it was the very thing, But if I am on the wrong track the sooner I get right the better, I will not bother you about this, so don't lose too much time with it. If my Patent turns out successful I will be in Boston before my month, In talking about art there is a book reproduced by Hsgood & Co. Walter Crane's "First of May" This is a gem. This represents an English scene. The gathering around the Mary Pole the English have them



forms the leading subject in the floral world  
but nearly all the Spring flowers are introduced  
The figure drawn is perfectly Marvellous, a copy  
of this book in the original form must be very  
fine, but this reproduction seems poorly done,  
I have examined nearly all the Christmas cards  
foreign and domestic as they say about the wines  
and have not met with a new idea in the whole  
but the picture of the blooming maiden I supposed  
pleases the artists, among the cheap cards the delicacy  
of color and careful drawing the London in my judgment  
is by far the best, Praying in my opinion over does nature,  
and chooses great large cabbage roses, and other garden  
monstrosities, when you know as well as I do, your  
New England woods are full of the most delicate  
colours and graceful forms that will keep the flower  
pattern busy for generations, this is quite a long  
letter, when you get tired showing these patterns around  
return them I will send you some of the latest,  
another thing, I am gold plating them now, this  
is a little darker than the brass, but they will not  
tarnish and does away with lacquering them,  
Compliments & Hoppings, I all your family wishing  
you a Happy Christmas I, hope your cold is  
better  
your sincere friend  
Thos. Mann

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 63 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, & C.

Louisville, Ky. Jan 20 1882

My Dear Parents,

I do not know how to express my thanks to yourself and Mr Higginson you have no idea of the pleasure you both have given me on reading your letters, all my friends here who know of my good fortune are equally pleased, Thanks for the present, and Thanks to your daughter Ella, for her nice compliment, Such praise will only urge me on to do better work, and do not be afraid about me losing my head, if I succeed now it will be only by hard work, I never knew what it was to have an idle moment, I write to Higginson last night and anticipated your suggestion of placing those plaques at \$15, per set, however I allowed him to use his judgment, If some satisfactory arrangements could be made with Shreve Crump & Co. to give them control of this work, I mean in the way of plaques and small panels, card receivers &c. I certainly should like you to be interested in some way where by you could make a little, either in farming &c. I am open for anything that will put the work on the market and

have the dealers interest protected as well as  
my own, so the fewer hands they pass through  
the better. If this firm had the entire contrroll  
perhaps \$20.00 may not be too much, but  
at present I think \$15.00 net will be best,  
I am looking at this now purely in a business  
light, I know what that is, it is a new thing, it  
might sell well, it may turn out a failure  
I have had so many disappointments, I have no  
desire that S.C.C. should cheapen them, the purchaser  
need never know what is paid for them, I think this  
thing will straighten it-self, there are laws of nature  
and laws of commerce. That must be obeyed, ~~It~~

I would not commit myself to any firm under  
this firm to make those things for a fixed price  
for any length of time. It was only yesterday that I was  
approached on the decorating of a Rail way car, the proprietor  
of the car works told me he was going to build an aesthetic car  
using tile for decoration he heard about the Etching  
and after seeing some specimens was greatly pleased  
and told me he would consider it favorably, Mr  
Downport there is no end to this style of decorating  
you ask about the tarnishing, the only points that will  
tarnish is the silver, the plaque is gold plated  
this is done to prevent tarnishing to keep this clean  
only require to be dusted, the silver spots I will give a

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway & Street Car Trimmings,  
METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, & C.

Louisville, Ky. \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_\_\_

thin coat of transparent lacquer. I am finding out new  
 joints every day. The tele frame was not gold plated  
 this was the simple brass. I am very fortunate about this  
 work having all the facilities within myself to produce  
 the work in the best & cheapest manner possible.  
 I shall look with interest for your Transcript notes  
 The papers here will re-publish it I stand well  
 with the newspaper fraternity. I will not say  
 any more now but present my thanks to Mr  
 Hurd and Mr Crump. I will write to Mr C  
 to-morrow or next day. do you think I ought  
 to send a plaque to the Transcript,  
 just as a compliment. Remember me to  
 your daughter Ella. I thank you again.  
 believe me to be your most  
 Sincere friend  
 J.W.

## JOHN WILLIAMSON &amp; Co.

63 &amp; 65 West Market Street,

**BRASS FOUNDERS,**

Manufacturers of Railway &amp; Street Car Trimmings,

K

METAL SPINNERS, PLATERS, &amp; C.

Louisville, Ky. Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 1882

My Dear Liverpool,

I have Expressed you a small box containing two plaques. The plaques will tell their own tale. I have drafted a note to Higginson explaining the situation. To have the opportunity to do this little act is a great pleasure I assure you. Remember me kindly to all the members of your family, your kindness to me has been ~~one of~~ the made this world a more cheerful one than it otherwise would have been and I appreciate it.

I received your card informing me that the Murdock gate company had called; I am ready to talk business with them. By the way. I had an order from Mr Rudkin today (of New York) for one or two pairs of plaques. I sent him your transcript which I want him to show them to Siffany.

I have not heard from Shreve Crump & Low yet, you know I wrote Mr Crump a personal letter as you desired but I am not impatient at all. I am busy yet.

Your sincere friend J.W.

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Carringtonville, Ky. Sept 2 1852

My Dear Down Ford

I suppose you have received the  
plaques &c. I sent you for the Exposition  
I hope you will find them up to the standard and  
that the Boston people will take kindly to them.  
I send three sets of tiles to Shaw, I trust he will  
give them a good send off. I am getting up  
a new Circular and some small business cards  
that you can hand over to the young man or who  
ever has charge of Mr Shaw's Exhibit, when I  
was in Boston & promised to send Mr Hurd  
of the Transcript some piece of my work  
for his kindness in giving me the recognition in  
his paper. You now can take the liberty to give  
both him and the advertiser any thing you suggest  
or I can etch some other plaque or palette  
for them. I thought about sending on some other  
pieces but it is too late now and I think the  
things that I have sent will give the people an

An idea of what I can do.

I think probably it would be better to wait a little while before noticing the work through the press. When the people have all returned from their summer jaunting, would be the best time, the plaque that is framed is one that I sold the gentleman was very anxious I would send it. What is your opinion of the frame I think the gold band next the plaque is a little out of place, but you have no idea how many different opinions I get about framing. When you write & me tell me your opinion of all the work, you observe the large plaque is better very bold, I was always met with the objection that my work was not bold enough. By the way I don't know what Lou will say about my ~~the~~ Bas Relief Tile, I got the first order in Philadelphia, had no idea of it when in Boston, but it is just about the same kind of tile as his only my work is in Bronze and his in clay.

I send you a notice from our papers to day I have ordered the Weekly Transcript for a year but it has not come to hand yet. I suppose you will have to put those things on small case. Any expense you are at on my acct let me know.

Your Obedt  
J. M. W.

Louisville, Ky... Sept... 16... 1882

My Dear Davenport.

Your letter and Postal card received  
I am glad you are pleased with my display. The  
only thing now is that the Bostonians will appre-  
ciate the work enough to send me  
orders. The only trouble about the whole thing  
is the Expense, yet many a one spends lots  
of money in buying very ordinary goods either  
in Art or household decorations, I thought  
murderous people would take hold of the tiles in  
Boston or New England just as the firm  
of Wellington & Burrage does with Lows,  
I don't think there would be any trouble in  
getting them introduced. I think I could make  
it an object for them pecuniarily to do so  
One thing about this work that I want to  
tell you, that is, the facility any one can  
steal my designs, it is true that I have  
copyrighted my designs, but how easy it



Would be got some manufacturers to just  
use my tiles for patterns, The more I feel  
I ought to have honest representations in  
different cities whose interest it shall be  
to protect me. These patterns are very  
expensive. Of course I make them myself  
and can make them as cheap as any one  
the price I have placed these tiles at  
are \$35 <sup>in</sup> per set to dealers. at this price  
I make a good profit. The dealer charges  
I suppose about \$50.00

I was glad to notice in your letter  
that the South made a good display,  
although it is the North that I must look  
for custom. I was thinking that some  
of your news papers friends could make an  
interesting article termed, 'The South at

The Boston Mechanic Institute, an article that  
our folks would appreciate. Ignore the  
politician, let Science and art  
bring the two Sections together. Paper  
a good strong article in a Boston Republican  
of this nature, will do more good to harmonize the  
North & South, than 10 years of Washington legislation  
to be secured <sup>at</sup> the expense of the expense, don't be scared, just do as you please!  
Your friend J. W.

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES,  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Oct  
Louisville, Ky. ~~Sept 4~~ 1882

My Dear Davenport,

Your Postal was received  
to day I also received the Transcripts notices  
I do not think you could say much more  
I am perfectly satisfied. I told our young  
man in the office to send you more  
Circulars and cards, several days ago, but he  
always put it off. To-morrow I will attend to  
them myself. I had a letter from Mr Shaw to day  
I am beginning to think the Tiles will be slow sale  
now whether they are too high priced or whether the  
work does not suit the Boston taste. I do not know,  
Shaw says the work is all right, and the designs are  
excellent he said little about the price, but that some  
parties thought them high. I do not want to re-  
duce the price, <sup>if I can help it</sup> because if I do it for one place  
I must do it for another, Now in New York  
I just had a letter on Monday and they  
said they were cheap enough. They are very

enthusiastic about them there, although  
I may say the sales so far are slow  
but they have hardly had time yet,  
I went up to Cincinnati last week and  
showed the work to the Architects and  
Grants & Grate men, they at once pronounced  
the Siles the best in the market  
and proved their words by ordering,  
I felt a little encouraged that I am  
getting out some more new designs,  
and purpose taking a trip to Chicago  
next week, I should like however  
to get the Boston people to take them  
up, The Low Sile I find will  
be my greatest competitor, but this  
country is large and surely there is  
room enough for all, The Boston  
people may be a little prejudiced  
in favor of the Chelsea, It is fine  
work and ought also to be encouraged,  
Mr Shaw said in his letter that Mr Sturges the  
Architect examined my work and was pleased  
I hope he will see his way to use some of this  
work. Thanking you again for your interest in my  
Welfare. Sincerely your friend John Williams

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Lansville, Ky. Oct 15 1882

My Dear Davenport.

Your last came to hand. It being Sunday I thought I might drop you a line. You seem to be quite sanguine about my work, and so is every body that speaks to me about it. Mr Collins must have been very enthusiastic when he said that "The work is the finest thing within the four walls" I was also pleased with Mr Robinsons remarks. I had quite a talk with him on that matter, at the Pic Nic party and found him very interesting. Now I am afraid I have got these things a little too high in price I mean the plaques &c-- you suggested that I get up a few without border. That I can do easily. and not put so much work on them I let them be sold at \$15.00. 25 off to dealers Now what do you think about that. When one pays 20 <sup>or</sup> for a plaque, and 6 or 7 dollars for a frame probably more, it makes them think twice before

buying, those pieces you have on exhibition  
you can sell at what they will bring, of course  
I would not like to make too great a  
sacrifice, I would like to reserve the  
large plaque and <sup>fine</sup> picture frame for the  
Washington expositors, this is gotten up  
to help on the Garfield monument, I  
may take the Longfellow picture ~~frame~~ <sup>out</sup> and put  
in one of Garfield - but if your visitors  
should come back and offer to purchase  
don't lose a chance, the taste at the present  
time is after bold ornamentation, & coarse in  
detail, I have no doubt the time will come when  
my delicate productions, will be better appreciated,  
about the tiles, they don't seem to sell, I have  
the best endorsements from architects and decorators  
and yet the people don't invest, you know what  
I have said, New York people said the same thing  
and yesterday I received two written endorsements  
from the two best architects in Cincinnati stating  
that the tiles are far ahead of any thing in the  
market, and cannot be unsurpassed for the purpose  
they were intended for, things may brighten  
but I sometimes get discouraged, Wellington and  
Burrages agent is here but I don't know with  
what success in selling, I wanted to see Tom but

Louisville, Ky. .... 185

he was not in when I called. I shall give him  
all the assistance I can, we appeal to the same  
trade, but it is left to the customer to choose  
whether he wants Metal or Clay tile, about the  
Salem Fair. It will depend a good deal on  
the encouragement I get from Boston  
If the Boston people do not patronize this work  
I don't think I need try any where else  
I wrote to W Shaw to let me know how his customers  
felt regarding the tiles, whether they were to dear  
or whether the designs <sup>or finish</sup> did not suit, you know  
it is impossible for me to tell here, I am  
working hard to go up to Chicago. I want to  
feel the market there, I am getting out  
a new circular with your Transcript notices  
principally about the tiles, If they once get  
started and running well they will pay  
better than the Etching  
Yours friend John Williamson (over)

If you do not get your  
intake of vitamins in the  
Southern states - you will  
be sure to miss it all over  
the country.

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. Nov 12 1882

My Dear Davenport

I received your postal card and paper. I sent the article on the Southern exhibit to our leading paper yesterday. I think they will publish it complete. Now I think if you could send me the Etched Sign the large plaque and the Longfellow frame I would send them to Washington. I could put the portrait of Garfield <sup>in the frame</sup>. I may donate that to the Bazaar.

I know Mr. Putkerson very well he represents the Metal Worker and I know very well he feels kindly towards me and never loses an opportunity to say a good word in my favor. The bronze tiles has struck the Stone men.

I have enquiries from the leading stone firms in the country for prices and samples. I had a letter this morning pressing up the work in the highest terms. If I can get the



pieces of suit I will have more work than I  
can attend to, one firm in Detroit wants me  
to make a contract with them for one season  
they guarantee to take 5000 sets, or about  
65,000 pieces of 3x3 inch tiles. They to have  
the exclusive right of my work for one  
season, I do not know exactly what  
to do. It seems to me that I would be wrong  
in giving any one the exclusive use of my  
product. In the first place I have no patent  
on this work and cannot get any, just as  
soon as the tiles are in the market  
some other Brass founder will either  
imitate or get suggestions. I know I am  
the first in the field and I also know that  
the stove firms are all eyes for the work,  
of course in making such large quantities  
I can reduce the price considerably.  
Another thing. The mantle men are inclined  
to throw cold water on the idea of  
making Bronze tiles for stoves. They say  
it will make them too common  
There may be some truth in that, and if  
I had plenty money to wait and see the  
mantle tiles, appreciated as they ought to  
be, and a probability of doing a good  
business, I would not bother with the  
stove tiles. Chicago is the only place so far

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & CO.

Louisville, Ky. .... 1853

That has taken up the mantle tiles with an earnestness. The New York and Boston out look so far is not encouraging —  
Now I think I have a chance to make a success I have worked hard for years and have not been rewarded. My work has always commended the highest praise from the best judges, I know that this place is against me, and I could do better in a larger city, but I cannot leave now, I think I will try and make as many good contracts as I can for next season and push the thing for all it is worth. I know I can get Capital to do so. It is "just possible the tide in my affairs" is at the flood Give me your judgement in this matter. I thought I would get at the illustration sometime soon but at present I must watch this situation. Kind regards to all the folks I am getting out a few plaques. Yours sincerely  
J. W. Williamson

Louisville, Ky. Dec 4 ..... 1882

My Dear Mr Davenport

I expressed you to night 3  
plaques I dont know what you will think  
of them I am very busy and it was  
hard work to get them done. I allow  
you a little latitude in selling those,  
that is, I would not find any fault  
if you got a dollar or two less  
than the \$20.00, I will not find  
fault with any thing you do.

These plaques are lacquered and if  
you hold them in certain lights they  
look a little streaky, but I find  
I must do that because when exposed  
to the atmosphere, either in or out  
of a room they <sup>soon</sup> get very dull  
I have one in my work room that  
is lacquered it has no glass and is hung  
right at the back of a stove that I burn

soft coal. It has been hanging up  
now for 6-weeks and is as bright  
as the first day,

I have had very bad luck with my  
Washington display. I sent most of those  
goods you returned and 4 sample  
boards of tiles, by some accident  
they have never reached Washington

I have been at the express office three  
times but can get no satisfaction  
it is too bad, but thank goodness

there is always some bright side to the  
picture. I received a letter today from  
my Chicago folks they have received  
the tiles, and pronounced them to be  
very handsome, and say further that  
"they are superior to any grate displayed  
by Jackson of New York, Jackson  
I may say has no equal in this country.

Mr Page of Chicago ordered some more  
tiles. I am now busy getting up new  
designs &c.

Your true friend (JW)

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & CO.

Lancaster, Ky. Dec 11 1882

My Dear Davenport

Your postal card received this morning. I am still busy and this morning received small orders for tiles from St Paul, and Minneapolis, but very encouraging.

I received your statement and feel now that I am indebted to you more than I will ever be able to pay.

You have acted most courteously in this matter, and I hope few summons will pass before I can repay you with double interest. I am now in a quandary, what to do.

I have prospects of the brightest, but whether I will be able to take advantage of them is a question.

In one of our papers here, yesterday there was a long article from the Philadelphia Record, about my work and myself personally.

ART METAL WORKS  
BRONZE AND BRASS TILES.  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF  
JOHN WILIAMSON & CO.

Cincinnati, Ky. Dec 24 1882

My Dear Darn put

Your last two postal cards  
was received. I hope you got rid of  
some of my plaques. I etched some  
very large plates for mantles. they went  
to Cincinnati they were quite elaborate,  
we are just in the midst of stock taking.

The proposed change in my business I wrote  
about is developing, but cant do any thing  
until I know how we stand, the tiles  
are going to take I think. I am filling  
orders now for Detroit and other points  
I cant understand why the Boston people  
wont buy. I think it must be the want  
of pushings. every body praises the goods.  
I am afraid it is the expense that scares the  
Boston people. After new year I will  
get things straightened up. and then will  
talk a little better. Compliments to all the family  
and with many returns in the Com in plain & W.

Don't forget to give Mr Howard some thing!

ART METAL WORKS

BRONZE AND BRASS TILES,  
ETCHINGS ON BRASS.

OFFICE OF

JOHN WILIAMSON & Co.

Louisville, Ky. Jan 10 ..... 1883

My Dear Davenport

Yours just received  
with enclosed check. About the  
one you gave Mr Hund, I would not  
wax myself about it. He has been very  
good and I think he is a man  
in very poor health and probably  
busy. I may tell you now that  
I think by the end of this week  
I shall have my new company organized  
I hope then to be able to do pretty  
much as I please and not be hampered  
as I have been. When I get things settled  
I may have to take a trip East on business  
matters. I of course will take a run to Boston.  
It seems to me that you have paid me too  
much. I know you have done more for me  
in this matter than any one I know, and I  
shall not forget it either. I have got a very bad cold  
I will write you more fully in a few days. Yours J. W.

Jas. W. Sprague, Pres<sup>t</sup>

Geo. H. Moore, Treas<sup>r</sup>

R. J. Menefee, Sec<sup>y</sup>

John Williamson, Genl. Supt.

Williamson Art Metal Works,  
Manufacturers of  
Plaques, Tiles, etc. cast in Brass. Relief in real. Bronze & Metal.  
227 & 229 West, Market St.  
T. Spinnell & Son,  
Agents for New York.

Louisville, Ky., April 16 1853

My Dear Davenport

I have often thought of writing to you, but not having anything special to say always put it off. Your paper received a few days ago on distribution of Ferns reminded me that I ought to write. I am very busy as I expected and at present in the hands of the Philistines. Prospects are fairly bright and I think it is only a question of time when I will be all right. I have been out in the woods every good Sunday. I like to see my old friends in early spring. I have done nothing at Botany. I am always thinking about making a start on that Fern book. If I could only get a start I would be all right. You will see from the back of this letter that we are to have a big show. I know what that means for me, lots of hard work, Compliments to all the folks. Tell Lizzie & Ella that I have made up my mind to get that photo taken this week. You know I am not much given to that. Your sincere friend J. W.



# SOUTHERN EXPOSITION, AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

OPENS AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup> 1883

CONTINUES 100 DAYS

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J. M. WRIGHT,

Gen'l Manager

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R. J. Menefee,  
Sec<sup>y</sup>

John Williamson,  
Gen<sup>l</sup> Supt

Williamson Art Metal Works,  
Manufacturers of  
Plaques, Tiles, etc. cast in Brass. Relief in real Bronze & Metal.

T. Aspinwall & Son,  
Agents for New York.

227 & 229 West Market St.

Louisville, Ky. Aug. 12 1883

My Dear Mr. Davenport

I write a line just to let you know I am still alive. I have received your checks list, New Orleans this Ve. but have been so busy that have had no time for anything but work. This Exposition of ours is a pretty big thing and every body wanted to have it a success. I have been working nearly every night until 10 o'clock, getting up new patterns for this, and also for other customers. Mr. Chas H. Mohr of Mobile is here attending to the Alabama display; he has all the forest trees; the plants, showing large sections of wood, also, flower leaf & fruit of each species, scientifically arranged & named. I have had no time even to give him as much attention as I could have wished. I would like first rate if you could take advantage of cheap rates, and visit us.

# SOUTHERN EXPOSITION, AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

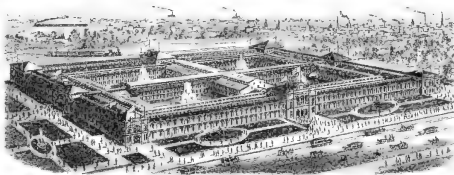
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John Williamson,  
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227 & 229 West Market St.

Louisville, Ky.

188

Remember me kindly to all the folks and  
compliments to Higginson

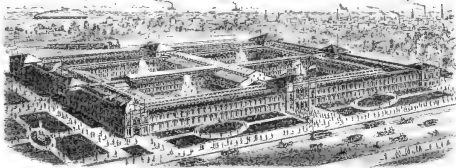
Your Sincere Friend  
Wm Williamson

By the way. Mr. Higginson ordered me to send  
two large panels to you to have framed  
I was only able to get one done.

I will send you an autotype of this  
tomorrow.

# SOUTHERN EXPOSITION, AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

OPENS AUGUST 17 1883  
CONTINUES 100 DAYS  
REDUCED RR. RATES.  
AMPLE  
HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS



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T. Aspinwall & Son,  
Agents for New York.

227 & 229 West Market St.

Louisville, Ky, Sept 16 1883

My Dear Mr Davenport

a letter from Higginson yesterday made me think I ought to write you I was very glad to hear from you that you have taken that trip to Vermont. I know you would enjoy it. I hope your health is improved. I have been very busy and I don't see any let up our business has increased about double within these few months. It looks as if the tile business was going to be a success. I have written to Osborne the artist who gets up Louis designs, to see if he would make me some heads & figure pieces so as I could reproduce them in bronze metal. I am having calls for such work, he however may not do it. I <sup>can</sup> get plenty of subjects to copy but I will not copy a line from any one, I consider it robbery to steal a design. I only trust my competitors will treat me the same way. I think I promised to send

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Louisville, Ky.

1885

Miss Lizzie and Miss Ella my photographs  
Well you know how promises are kept sometimes  
about three months ago. I went to the photographer  
who has been doing my art work, and got him to  
take a cabinet size portrait. He did to  
but something went wrong about the negative,  
and I never had time to go back.

I was compelled to get my photo. for our  
Exposition, some red-tape, and for this I  
went to the first man. It turned out  
to be a pretty fair likeness, and I had time  
to find a few. These now I send, with  
the understanding that I will send the  
large size just as soon as I get a chance

I shall be glad to hear from you  
especially about your last trip

Yours Sincerely

White Williamson



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Cast in Bas-relief in real Bronze Metal

227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky Jan. 1884

Dear Mr Davenport

I got the photo all right many thanks. I don't see the least amateurish touch about those. I think them first class. I don't know but what it would pay me to photo my own work that way. We had a good Christmas trade I made quite a number of small etchings and the Bronze Leads had a good run. We are now in the midst of stock taking, it is a cold job. The weather here is wintery. Remembers me to all the folks and wishing you all a good new year, a little late but the wish is all the same. What do you think I am having a call now & again for fern etchings, but I will print no more. I have 50 copies of ferns I left. A New York house wrote me last week for pieces & discounts. I offered them all at 1.00 each. I have not heard from them yet.

Your Sincere friend, Wm Williamson

# Williamson Art Metal Works,

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227 and 229 West Market Street,

Louisville, Ky June 10 1884

My Dear friend Lavenport

I often think of you all and feel I ought to write oftener, but we live such a busy life, of worry and one thing that those nicer traits are forgotten or rather neglected, since my last severe sickness, I have never felt real well I have had a great deal of hard work to do, and now I find myself unable to do anything. I am just completely broke down, and to-morrow I go to the country and take a rest of

I may visit an interesting locality I am going to the mountains of West Virginia. If I think of any thing of interest I may write you.

If I had that camera of yours I would be able to do some work. I wish you would go around by The Murdock Co & see how our goods are shown, if you see Shaw

you can ask if they goods are showing in Savan, he has been ordering more goods

I send you my new catalogue of small kind book

I enclose a copy  
of the Cincinnati Gazette  
with an extract about  
Mr Williamson, written  
by Mrs Harbacek & a  
copy of the "Cincinnati"  
with your excellent  
transcript attached

I shall write Haggins  
soon a few days

July 7, 1884.

Mr Geo W Davenport

My dear Sir

I thank you very much  
for your very kind letter of the 27th ult  
& would have acknowledged it before  
but for the many things clamoring at-  
tention in this office at the close of  
the fiscal year. Williamson & I  
have been intimate friends for many  
years. When he first came to Louisville,  
about 18 years ago, he founded Scientific  
association here, & came over to New  
Albany, Ind (just across the river)

I joined our Society of Natural Hist.  
which was then in active operation.  
Many & many a night we worked  
together in the rooms of the Society.  
We botanized together over all the  
hills, & knew every place for miles  
around where a certain plant could  
be found. We carried our lunch  
with us, & those days seem the happiest  
of my life. I can hardly realize that  
they are ended forever, & that we can  
never again go to the woods together. He  
was one of nature's noblemen. When he first  
made a few sketches of ferns, <sup>we</sup> were ~~so~~  
delighted, & then he thought of getting up  
a book. He wrote out the first part of  
it, but on account of his lack of educa-  
tion, it was necessary for me to work it all  
over, keeping as far as possible his ideas  
in view, finally he furnished some rough  
notes only, & towards the end, his time being  
taken up with the sketches, & I finished the text  
alone. I only mention this to show how closely we  
were associated, & how deeply I feel his loss.  
Of course it was all John's work, & I didn't want  
him even to mention my name in the preface.  
I wanted him to succeed, & would have given any  
thing in the world to help him.

He was enthusiastic in the pursuit of his favorite hobby. When he turned his attention to ferns, he scarcely looked at anything else. He gave his whole heart to them.

In many respects he was unfortunate in business, though always earnest, faithful & energetic, never neglecting his work for any of his scientific hobbies. When he first came to us he was a wood-carver, & had a little shop on Green St. He was very successful & accumulated considerable property, & if he had continued in that or subsequent undertakings, also, he would have been quite independent. But in an evil hour he went into a brass foundry with a "wicked partner," & when he got rid of him & Mr. Lanham came in in his place, Williamson was hopelessly in debt, which hung over him to the last. Finally he became associated with three gentlemen of means, & he had a fair prospect of success, though I understand that their first year's work resulted in a loss. I think this worried John, but he was quite hopeful, & I feel sure that his efforts would eventually have been successful.

He was very weak when he went to West  
Pa, when he reached the mountains the  
weather was cold & damp. He was not  
out of his room for days. Dr Barksdale  
writes that he was called to see him late one  
evening & found him lying on a pallet on the  
bank of the river. Some boys had paddled him  
up the river & brought him back with a severe  
chill. The Dr had him immediately taken to  
the Hotel, but he only lived half an hour.  
His last conscious hours were thus spent  
among woods he loved so well. I am told  
that the banks of this stream & hillsides are cov-  
ered with ferns. I know that if he had had  
his choice he would have preferred to die  
so, if only his dear old mother could have been by his side.

I have had several persons who have  
been out to Mrs Williamson's to make inquir-  
ry about your MSS, but so far it has not been  
found. I shall go out the first opportunity &  
look for it myself. It will certainly be found  
either at the house or at the works. I will  
send that once whenever it comes to light.

My kindest regards to yourself  
& family, all of whom I have heard Williamson  
speak of so often

Very truly yours  
E. S. Crozier





St. Louis City, Mo., La. Kansas  
May 1 1877

Geo. E. Scribner Esq.

I should be glad to send you roots, but little get, I would, as only young plants are fit to be sent likely to live, should you want more roots I will send them in the Fall, as to the specimens you wish, quantity is no object, as these are winter get, and so long as I can have no one need be without W. tubata, My herbarium has not yet arrived, and I am not prepared to cultivate them in my greenhouse. I had a very extensive winterless penny, and as soon as I get settled here hope to have another when I will call on you to assist me.

Very sincerely yours,

James White

small box of roots sent by this mail.

Apr. 10th 1890

Mr. Geo. E. Sargent

Dear Sir

in regard to exchange of ferns as just received.

I find, in looking my collection over, that I have very few ferns on hand at present, but I can furnish you specimens of the following species if you wish:

- Polypodium Tuckerm.* (about 10 spec.)
- ~~*Chelidonium Tuckerm.*~~ } This I see you do not wish.
- C. lanuginosa* Nutt. (3 or 4)

*Calla* ~~*Wrightiana*~~ *Hook* (possibly more)

*Polypodium acrostichoides* R. Br.

If I do any collecting in the mountains this summer I would be glad to send you what few we have here. There are however but few species in the Territory and these

are often rather rare or local on account of our dry climate.

Please state how many of each species (of those mentioned on previous page) you desire and whether you want them now or will wait until next autumn when I shall probably have more.

Very Resp Yours  
Wm. W. Wilson

Bx 2733

Des Moines

Please mention box number, as otherwise I fail to receive my mail until advised.

W.

SENDER May 15<sup>th</sup> '76

Dear Sir

I send by mail of  
 to day the ferns you mentioned  
 viz. (4) *Cheilanthes lanuginosa* Nutt  
 (1) *Polystichum Fendleri*, Kunze. —  
 (2) *Pellaea Wrightiana* Hook —  
 (3) *Cryptogramme acrostichoides* R. Br.  
 - about 40 specimens in all  
 omitting the fragmentary  
 fronds which were sent me  
 from Cañon City in this  
 condition. I did not label them  
 as it would interfere with the  
 postal law. The localities are  
 as follows. (No 1) Grand Cañon  
 of Arkansas R. (2) Do. (3) Gray's  
 Peak. (4) Cheyenne Cañon.  
 I enclose list of my  
 desiderata as requested.

Usually I do not wish for  
more than one <sup>or two</sup> good specimens  
of each species, as I do not pay  
particular attention to the Terms;  
but if necessary to make up  
the desired number more  
may be added.

I expect soon to  
start for the southern part of  
the Territory on a collecting  
trip where I expect to add largely  
to my collections.

Yours Truly,  
Wm. W. Wilson  
B4 2733

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Geo E Sawrport  
Boston.

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Denver Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1896

Mr. Geo. E. Sampson:

Dear Sir,

I have but recently returned from Twin Lakes where I have been spending the summer and find your set of ferns which was received by my brother last spring. I have scarcely found time to examine them closely yet, but find they are mostly western, and entirely new to me.

Contrary to my expectations, I remained at Twin Lakes all summer detained by poor health, and did <sup>not</sup> collect in the southern part of the State. Therefore my collection of ferns is quite small. I can furnish you, however with all the *Notoloma Fendleri* and *Woodsia Ozgana* & *Cheilanthes lanuginosa* you wish, also a few specimens of *C. Fendleri*. Write her saying you would like &c & I will forward at once. Yours Resp. Wm. W. Wilson Bx 2733