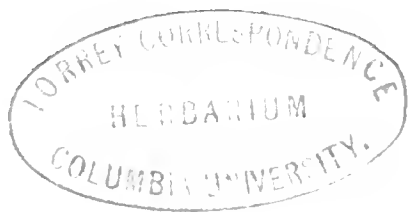


Utica, Nov. 30.



Dear Sir

I take the liberty of addressing you for the purpose of inquiring if you can give me the address of T. F. Allen Esq. who 'made his botanical fortune' in the discovery of *Marsilea quadrifolia* in Ct. I have heard that he was in a new university not far from Chicago, but this is no help to me.

What I wish of him is - to obtain a specimen of this *Marsilea* if I have anything for which he would exchange. And what I wish of this is to see if it is anything like a plant I found two or three years ago in a pond on Cape Ann, Mass.

At the time when I found it - I took it to be merely a plant - new to me, and so I gathered only a few specimens to analyze when I reached home. But when I reached home I could not analyze it - at all, and in my desperate efforts used up all my specimens. I have obtained no clue to it - yet, though it may be right here in the ~~mountain~~ plain and fully told, - ~~most likely~~ the fault is all my own. But ~~even~~ if it is I would like to be helped out.

As near as I can remember the description would be something like this. Floating free, <sup>in clusters</sup> at the surface - nothing raised above. Rootlets, three or four inches long, and foliage issuing from outlets; these were very hard though hollow, could not be broken by the pressure of the thumb and finger, - and were black, bony and shining. Petioles of the leaves two to four inches long. Leaves an inch and a half long

ly half an inch wide, rounded at the  
side I think, and at the base I can-  
not tell whether they were rounded  
or truncate or cordate. I do not  
remember distinctly but I believe the  
flower scapes or pedicels came from  
the sheathing base of the petioles, or  
perhaps higher. I had only two little  
unopened buds, but if I did not mul-  
tiply the parts by tearing them to pieces,  
there were three or four sepals, and  
from three to five sessile stamens about  
a central ovary. This description is  
very scanty and likely very imperfect,  
as I have forgotten the whole thing  
several times, and the description of  
Marsilea in Prof Gray's *Volucella*  
called it to mind again.

Not far from this city I have found  
specimens of a *Scheuchia* that agree  
exactly with all descriptions of *S.*  
*Multicollis* except the habitat: they were  
as widely different as could be from

the *S. Ralmii* found on the rocks at  
Tomton Falls. I regret that I have  
lost my specimens.

Nearly a year ago I received a  
number of plants from Salvador,  
and have wanted the second vol  
of Torrey and Gray's North American  
Botany to make up some of the extra  
limited ones of Gray's manual. This  
is of course to in your state work but  
I never have been able to find it. Can  
you tell me where I can obtain one?

I am a young botanist, and at length  
have begun to set up my three or four  
hundred specimens of the rarer plants.  
The enclosed is the form of arrangement  
of the herbarium papers that I have  
thought of. If there is a better way I  
would be glad to know it - or any sug-  
gestions I would be glad to receive.  
I am somewhat ambitious of having  
a good and extensive herbarium.

Is Dr. Kniester's address still "Shark River n. j.?"  
and can you tell me the locality of *Schizaea* so I can  
find it next year? Please answer if it be a pleasure.  
Yours truly,  
John A. Paine Jr. Wica N.Y.

