

Fayetteville Ga. 23rd May 1852.

Prof. Anselmy Esq.

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GARDEN.

A few days since I called on you at New York,
 bearer of a letter from our friend W. S. Nuttall of Columbia.
 It is the second time that I am trying to make you
 personal acquaintance and I would have been very happy
 to find you. Nuttall's letter told you who I am and
 perhaps Dr. Gray or Mr. John Carey might have mention-
 ed my name to you. About winter I prepared for publication
 the American mosses which I collected in different journeys
 especially in North Alabama, Georgia and both Carolinas, 300
 species in number, comprising the species collected by Oakes
 on the White Mountains and bought by Mr. Nuttall.
 The *Sparganium Torreyanum*, is the only species of which
 I have too few specimens and I would have been very
 happy to receive from you some indications about the
 locality where it grows and the best places where I should
 go in New Jersey for the collecting of more and also of
Torreyanum plants. As I am quite deaf, if I had had
 the pleasure to see you, you would have had much trouble
 to speak with me and perhaps on ^{account} of this infirmity you
 will be kind enough to give me by a letter the indica-
 tions which I want. I am now engaged in the geological
 and mineral survey of Georgia for the study of the fossil plants,
 but I will find opportunity to make an excursion to
 the New Jersey swamps. I am going to make one to

Given by A. M. VAIL, from J. G. Crooke Collection

MAR 4 - 1907

morning to the great small map near a Fall
Virginia and shall be back in a week or so. This would
be the best season to find the sphagnum in fruit.

In my journey in the mountains of the Southern
States, I found many new mosses, especially 3 or 4 new
sphagnum. I had also among my phanerogamous plants
a few ones which I could not determine and which I
had with me when I called on you. Perhaps Mr. John
Wray has communicated them to you. There is in
North Alabama, along the Pecan Mts and Lookout
Mts many fine localities where I found scarce plants
and some new ones. Did you want any information
about those places which want a closer and longer
exploration than I could do, having too large a country
to explore, I would be very glad to give you the
most detailed account of my journey and also of the
best conveyances which might be used to go there.

Please to excuse this letter and my
imperfect language and to believe that I am
very respectfully yours

Leó Lesquerens,

My address is Fottville, Va.

MAR 4-1907

Totts ville June 3th 1852.

Dear Sir.



Returning from the Dismal swamp, I find here your very kind and amiable letter and assure you that I am very grateful for it and for the directions that you give me about the swamps of New-Jersey. I will try to go to Quaker-bridge next week; it would be the best season to find *Sph. Torreyanus* in fruit. I prepared myself the specimens from the bundle that you sent to M. Sullivant; but only when our friend had picked out what he wanted for communication; I have scarcely fifty specimens left and they are poor. And as I prepared the American mosses at 100 specimens this fine *Sphagnum* is one of the few species which is deficient in number. I hope that you will be pleased with the preparation and appearance of our mosses. The specimens are as handsome as those of M. Sullivant's Alleghania mosses and the greatest part have fruit. and there is also one hundred species more. If this collection goes well and is easily sold, I will prepare the hepaticas for a second bundle. Do you think the price would be too high at \$5 per hundred. The specimens are glued on white paper and will be enclosed in a portfolio or in a bundle, like those of Drummond.

Except a fine *Splachnum*, probably the same as the one collected by Drummond near New Orleans, (I have no my microscope with me) and *Sphagnum macrophyllum* sterile and some other *Sphagna* which I collected before in Alabama, I did not find in the Dismal swamp anything interesting for Botany. The flora is very poor; but the swamp is remarkable on account of the formation of the peat which I never observed in such southern latitude. I think I could find the same formation in full activity as South as the everglades of Florida. Drummond's lake is, as I supposed it, formed by a depression or sinking of the ground and evidently the depression continues at our epoch. — But I have not time to give you

many details about what I saw there - you want some indications about the localities which I found more interesting in the southern mountains; I will try to give them to you, though I have not here my notes, neither the names of the plants which I collected. I began my journey in S. W. Tennessee, near Dover went up the Cumberland to Nashville, thence to Huntsville, Ala. and crossed the mountains from W. to E. so that I finished the exploration exactly at the same place where the Gent. of whom you speak is beginning his researches. Mr. Sullivant had explored very closely French broad-river; my time and money were out, so I stopped a few days only at Ashville, N. C. to go from thence to the summit of Black Mt. This locality is very rich for the cryptogamous plants, but except *Clintonia borealis* and some orchideae I did not collect any ^{rare} phanerogamous plant. Nevertheless, I think that a station of one week at the base of Black Mt. 15 miles E. of Ashland, at an old hunter Burnet, where one may be comfortably, would give good result. This place is surrounded by very high mountains of difficult access and where probably one might find many interesting plants. As I tell you, I visited only the highest peak of the Black Mt. and remained only three days in this small valley. Proceeding from Ashville through Pendleton, a very fine place for a long station is Clarksville, Ga. One may easily go there by stages. - Toccoa falls, Tallulah falls, Union G. Donah Mt. Tray Mt., Union gap at the top of blue ridge, all these localities are easily visited from this place and all, especially Tallulah falls are very rich. There is at these falls a good hotel where your friend could perhaps stop a few days; I was there only two days and I much regretted that I could not follow up the river till far in the mountains where there are dark recesses ^{very} good for new plants I think. It is the only place where I found in abundance *Ceroplastum asphodeloides* with plenty of other fine species. I obtained there *Sphagnum moll. n.* in fruit. From Clarksville W. up the valley of the Sawtooth one sees a few miles on the right Tray Mt. the highest summit of the ridge.

I would not visit it, the way is difficult and I found nobody who would come there as a guide. But this summit is not many feet higher than Union gap and covered of trees like the best it is of no interest for the ^{cryptogamous} plants. On the left is Jonah M^t more broken where I found a new *Macromitrium* but no rare phænogamous plants. - 15 miles farther up is Union gap where one arrives by a deep and dark valley with a splendid vegetation. Here *opaca* is there a tree very ~~stately~~ 50 to 100 feet high. At the summit of Union gap on the peaks which domineer the road both sides, I found a fine *Trillium*, *T. catesbeii*, I think and many other good species. The road down the mountains on the other side, along High-wassee river is also very interesting. Tucan fall is south of Clarksville 12 m. I found there a very remarkable and new *Schlotheimia*. But the place is too dry for the phænogamous plants. Between Clarksville and Ashville, I stopped two weeks at Dickem P. H. to explore from this place Table rock, Cera's head, both very fine localities for the scenery but too well known and visited by botanists and where is nothing new to be found. At the foot of Table rock M^t. I collected a few specimens of the handsome *Dryopteris fimbriata*? (I think, for I don't remember the name of these southern plants described by Ellis). I visited also Beconee M^t., Glassy M^t., Deville P. H. Cherokee M^t. all poor and dry granitic M^t. I would not advise any botanist to go there except perhaps to explore closely the Cherokee M^ts. Perhaps Dahlonega, Ellijoy in Gilmer Co. would be interesting stations. But there is great difficulty to approach these M^ts. There is no stage and the only mode of travelling is on horseback. I crossed ~~from~~ ^{to} Clarksville from Stone M^t stopping at Gainesville. These countries like what they name the blue ridge, between Clarksv. and Gainesv. is not very interesting. The ridge is low, it is the true Chattahoochee. M^t 500 feet high no more; I could not collect there a rare plant though a D^r living at the sulfur springs near Gainesville affirmed that he had found a small handsome plant nearly like a violet and which was nowhere described. As he could not show me the plant and as I am too well acquainted with the botanical attainments of these country Doctors,

I would scarcely think worth going there expressly to look at the underdescribed plant. The good doctor had well heard from you and from D. Gray, he told me he knew both your names, but he had never seen the worths of any one of you. From Stone Mt. very interesting for one day visit, one has to take the cars on the railroad till Rome, Ga. thence the stage to Van Buren Co. and here is certainly the best and most profitable station for a Botanist. I was there three weeks; but I would I had lived at the place three months; for I had had very small expenses of money and the result of my journey would have been better. It is truly a loss of time and money to run from one place to another and to explore in three months so large a country. A good station is enough for a whole year and if I ever have opportunity, it is my purpose to go directly in April to these mountains of Alabama and to explore them closely at least for three months. I was told that since July the mountains are dry and barren. Van Buren lies in a valley between Southout Mt. and Sand or Racoon Mt. both parallel ridges running from N. to S. It is not possible to tell what abundance of flowers covers these mountains. They are not very high; a thousand feet perhaps; but on their broad sandy surface there run a great many rivulets forming or marshes, or deep chasmes, or water falls where the vegetation is much diversified and truly admirable. If I had my notes, I would give you a long nomenclature of the rare plants which I collected there. For the mosses only, I had three new Sphagna, a new Phascum, many Brys and plenty of the rarest species. The Tennessee is very interesting. The country around Wash ville especially I found very rich. I collected there a new Desmatodon and a Vesicaria which I think also new. You may find a specimen of it in the bundle of plants left at Mr. Carey for examination; perhaps this bundle has been sent now to Mr. Gray. For three months of travelling south, I spent \$250. too much for me; but every where in South, journeying is very expensive. Mr. Sullivan gave me for the journey \$100 only. But I hope that I will sell enough of our collection of mosses to remunerate these expenses, and if it is the case, I will probably go next year to the Mt. of Alabama for an exploration of a few months.

This letter is very poor, Dear Sir; but you will excuse it on account of my ignorance of your language, of the absence of my notes and of the want of time. I have here very hard work with the collecting of the fossil plants which I am studying with the greatest pleasure. The field is new, very rich, and so most interesting. - If I find something in the swamps of N. Jersey I will write you about it.

I would be very happy to be worth of your friendly remembrance and assure you that I am very respectfully yours

Prof. John Torrey.

Le's Desquereux

