

Dear Sir,

Albany May 3^d 1830.

I have just examined your last packages of plants which I found here on my return from a short visit to the North. I will proceed to a few remarks upon them.

1. As to the Ferns.

Your Polypodium hexagonopterum. I consider, identical with the foreign P. Phegopteris. These two plants I formerly believed not distinct, but I have been compelled to change this opinion. P. hexagonopterum has the frond more triangular in shape & smoother, than P. phegopteris; the stipe of the former is moreover, smooth instead of scaly. These characters are said to be constant during cultivation — P. corniculata of Willd & Pursh I consider not distinct from your plant.

P. calcareum is labelled right; though, it is not to be considered synonymous with P. Dryopteris. as stated by Torrey & Eaton. It is distinct in its more rigid habit, & duller green colour — P. Dryopteris is quite rare, in this country.

Aspidium punctilobum. This is Dicksonia pilosiuscula generically distinct from Aspid. by its double indusium. There appears to be no such plant as Aspidium punctilobum. Yours is undoubtedly the plant originally described by Michaux as Nephrodium punc. but as Willdenow did not recognise that genus he placed it under Aspidium, probably without having examined

authentic specimens. At the same he also recognizes our plant under the genus *Dicksonia* to which it undoubtedly belongs.

Aspidium asplenoides. The fern sent under this name is certainly *A. filix-femina*. In common with many other American botanists I was for a long time induced to believe that these plants were identical; but after a patient examination of many authentic foreign specimens & a comparison of them with our own, ^{has} led me to adopt other views. It is not easy at first sight to distinguish these two plants, but a careful examination will I think always enable you to do so. *A. asplenoides* has generally a broader & larger frond. The sori are longer & binate, & being parallel to each other give the fern the appearance of an *Asplenium*. The involucre common is also larger & remains firmly attached to the frond, & the sori at length become confluent. On the other hand, the sori of *A. filix-femina* are straight & a little oblong, but at length by the pushing back of the involucre becoming kidney shaped & appearing nearly round; & always so far as my observation extends, remaining perfectly distinct. Your plant is exactly in this state.

Asunda spectabilis is labelled correctly, — distinct from *O. regalis*.
Oncoclea nodulosa — is *Struthiopteris germanica*. It agrees precisely with foreign specimens of this plant.

Botrychium gracile. is *B. virginicum*, I do not consider them distinct.

Pteris aquilina. This plant is according to Dr Hooker & other English botanists, whom I dare not dispute *P. caudata*. If this is correct it has undoubtedly been mistaken by most of our American botanists. The true *P. aquilina* is said to be rare in this country & only found heretofore in the southern states.

The rest of your ferns are labelled correctly, at least according to my views.

Potamogeton natans is *Polygonum natans*.

P. crispum — This plant I have had for several years, but have not yet determined whether it is *P. crispum* or not. It certainly does not agree with the descriptions. I have sent specimens to Europe for comparison, but have not yet learned the result.

Thelypodium aureum is *Lonicera marilandica*.

Galium triflorum. — The specimen which I labelled thus I am still inclined to believe that plant. The other specimen which you call *G. triflorum* agrees exactly with a specimen in my herbarium named by Muhlenberg himself *G. cuspidatum*, which succeeding botanists have generally referred to *G. triflorum*. Elliott however, considers them distinct & if so, the smoothest plant, with the largest leaves is *G. triflorum*, & the other *G. cuspidatum*. It is most probable however, that they are mere varieties.

You are right in your views of the *Cornus*, & the one with the villous azyge is *C. sericea* — I subjoin the names of some of the grasses formerly sent, according to Torrey's *Compendium*.

25. <i>Festuca elatior</i> or <i>pratensis</i>	23. <i>Helictotrichum pennsylvanicum</i>	13. <i>Larix scopulina</i>
26. <i>Agrostis elyptica</i>	37. <i>Imperata acuminata</i> N. & M.	12. <i>C. stipitata</i>
27. <i>Poa nemoralis</i>	14. <i>Larix rosea</i>	The rest I have not yet had time to determine
30. <i>Danthonia striata</i>	11. <i>C. multiflora</i>	
19. <i>Phalaris americana</i> Ell.	55. <i>C. flexuosa</i>	

The *Solidago's* & *Asters* vary so exceedingly that I hardly dare pronounce on many of them. They do not appear to have been well studied by any of our botanists & I have a number which I have never yet been able to determine or to have determined —

Your plants have interested me very much much & I should think your locality a fine one. I wish you would take up the

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mosses of your region. If you desire it I will put up for you a few from this region, & some other plants from here & Vermont. They may be called for here or if you say in what manner, they shall be sent to you soon. I shall at all times be glad to receive any thing from your vicinity & shall be ready to give you such information as I possess concerning your plants. Yours sincerely Lewis C. Beck.



Beck, Lewis C. 1830. "Beck, Lewis C. May 3, 1830." *Asa Gray correspondence* 1-3.

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