

SOME NOTES OF RARE FERNS.—On the trip to Ocala last December we noticed quantities of the beautiful *Aster Carolinianus*, full of large bright blossoms, growing all along the Ochlawaha river. About Ocala the flowers were scarce just then, but I gathered a large number of fine *Asplenium firmum*, two forms of *A. myriophyllum* and two forms of *Pteris Cretica*. When I saw the number of flourishing plants I had no fear of destroying localities, and was able to secure entire ferns for my specimens.

I was also successful in getting a goodly quantity of fruited *Polypodium Plumula* from a monster Live Oak in a deep forest near St. Augustine. This is the first time that I have collected this fern in really good condition. Though one of our prettiest ferns it gives more trouble in pressing than any other one, I think. This is caused by the extreme elasticity of the rhachis, which is so great that the frond *will not* stay as it is placed, and by the rolling up of the pinnæ. Unless placed in an extremely wet atmosphere they will not uncoil, and then they are all ready to curl right up again unless pressed at once. I have collected also excellent specimens of *Acrostichum aureum*. Some of these are simply upper sections of fruited fronds, and some show the entire fertile frond. The latter are five or six feet long and are very handsome ferns.—MARY C. REYNOLDS.

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.—I notice in the GAZETTE for October, 1879, an account of an unusually large specimen of *Rhus Toxicodendron*. As every botanist knows, this species is usually prostrate or creeping over walls and fences and at the north rarely high climbing, the stems seldom more than a half inch in diameter. It was with astonishment, therefore, that I noted during the winter of 1879 the enormous specimens among the timber along the Grand river in the Cherokee Nation. Many of them were not less than six inches in diameter and climbing to the tops of the tallest trees, thus rivaling *Tecoma radicans* and *Vitis*.

Here in Missouri the largest trees along the streams have been felled and most of the old specimens of the *Rhus* which clung to them been destroyed; still, very large specimens are frequent. I note that while *R. typhina* is the most abundant species in northern New England, *R. copallina* is largely in excess of the others here in the southwest.—WILLIAM F. FLINT, *Bowers Mills, Missouri*.

COMMELYNACEÆ.—At a meeting of the Linnean Society on Feb. 5, Mr. C. B. Clarke gave an oral *résumé* of this order, which he had lately worked out for DeCandolle's "Prodromus." He defined the order by the position of the embryo, as not surrounded by albumen, but closely applied to the embryostega, which is always remote from the hilum. An important auxiliary character is that the three segments of the calyx are always imbricated, so that one is entirely outside of the two others. Mr. Clarke divides the *Commelynaceæ* into



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