



Botanical Gazette.

Vol. V.

JUNE, 1880.

No. 6.

EDITORIAL.—LEERS, the German botanist, to whom the genus *Leersia* was dedicated, accidentally receives from the types of the GAZETTE a treatment almost as rough as the sheaths of his gramineous nam sake. His name was printed "Leen" on page 140, and the endeavor to correct it on page 53 produced "Leer's."

IN THE NOTICE OF DR. ENGELMANN'S admirable *Revision of the Genus Pinus*, we inadvertently stated that only forty-five of the species—those upon which notes are appended—had been examined by himself. An inexcusable error; for the author distinctly declares, on page 15, that he had examined every species in his enumeration.

IN MR. T. J. HOWELL'S advertisement of Oregon plants in the last GAZETTE, it was stated that he would botanize in Wyoming Territory during the coming season. It should have read Washington Territory, a correction which we hope will be noticed by all desiring to purchase western plants.

MR. A. H. CURTISS is preparing for a tour of the Florida Reefs, and afterwards expects to go into the interior of the State. We may expect some rich results.

THE DEATH OF MR. COE F. AUSTIN should have been noticed before in the GAZETTE. The announcement came with a shock to those who were only acquainted with Mr. Austin through correspondence. The GAZETTE was indebted to him for many valuable notes on Mosses and Liverworts, and such seemed to be the vigor of his intellect, the quickness of his observation, that they were by no means associated in our minds with a feeble body and failing health. He died at the age of 48, at his birthplace, Closter, N. J. His widow has put on sale his valuable collections of Musci and Hepaticæ, and it is to be hoped that botanists will promptly procure sets, "both for their own sakes and the sake of the family of this devoted scientific worker." The prices are as follows: Musci Appalachiani, \$25; supplement to Musci, \$6; Hepaticæ Boreali Americanæ, \$15.

IN THE SAME CONNECTION we would mention the death of John Carey. He died at Blackheath, near London, March 26 ult., in the 83d year of his age. Mr. Carey contributed the articles on *Salix* and on *Carex* to the first edition of Gray's Manual.

AT NEARLY THE SAME DATE, another eminent botanist died at Paris, Wm. Ph. Schimper, whose name is so familiar to bryological students. He was in his 73d year. Twenty years of his life were devoted to the publication of what is called "a grand scientific monument," the *Bryologia Europæa*. "This contains in six quarto volumes a detailed description of all the species of Mosses known in Europe, each illustrated by a full plate of figures, beautifully and exactly re-

producing the characters of the divers parts of the plants and of their variations." Prof. Schimper's later years were devoted to the study of vegetable paleontology.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN at Cambridge is no longer a local, but a national concern. The eyes and thoughts of the botanists of this country are directed to it as naturally as are those of English, in fact the world's, botanists, to the Kew Gardens. There we find the largest herbarium, the largest library, the largest collection of living plants, indigenous to our own country, to be found anywhere on the continent. But still we can have more, and what is more to the point, we are going to have it. The present director, Prof. George L. Goodale, is a man of indomitable energy, and his heart is in this work of developing the Garden. He can keep more irons in the fire at once, and have them all hot, than any gentleman of our acquaintance. Of course improvement means money, and money is what botanists are not generally blessed with, and hence we will not make a financial appeal to them, although about \$80,000 would be very acceptable. But botanists, more than any other persons, know good plants and where they can be procured, and if the botanists of this country would make it a point to send good living roots or seeds of their local rarities to Cambridge, they would be doing themselves very little inconvenience, and might do the Garden great good. The best plan would be to send to the Director a list of rare plants whose roots or seeds can be procured by the writer, and then all needless trouble would be avoided. Mr. Sereno Watson has in charge the naming of the large collection already under cultivation, and his name is a guarantee to botanists that all the labels can be depended upon.

VITALITY OF THE SEEDS OF SEROTINOUS CONES.—On page 54 Prof. Sargent gave the results of his experiments with serotinous (closed) cones of *Pinus contorta*, which I had collected in 1874 in Colorado, kept for more than four years in a garret, and sent to him in the spring of 1879. Seeds of cones 13 years old and 10 years old did not germinate; one out of six of 9 year old seeds, one out of eleven of 8 year old seeds, one out of three of 7 year old and one out of four of 6 year old seeds germinated and grew up well; those of 5 year old cones did not come up. Prof. Sargent pronounces the result to be unsatisfactory. To me it seems to be eminently satisfactory. It proved that part of the seeds from cones 5 to 9 years old had retained their vitality and that those that are older than 9 years failed; younger ones would undoubtedly have also germinated had such been experimented upon. The result shows that pine seeds of serotinous cones, or, to be more exact, seeds of *Pinus contorta*, kept under the circumstances detailed above, could and did retain their vitality a number of years—even nine years—while the perishable nature of pine seeds under ordinary circumstances is well known. The economy or the effect of keeping the cones closed is therefore evidently the preservation of the vitality of the seeds for a number of years beyond their maturity. What is not fully known and what will have to



1880. "Editorial." *Botanical gazette* 5(6), 61–62. <https://doi.org/10.1086/325366>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/27496>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/325366>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/221266>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

MSN

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.