

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to have the leaves, flowers, and fruit; and, in the case of bulbous plants, the bulbs, also. When they are sent from a distance it is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When the dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed between pieces of stiff pasteboard. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per ounce. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where collected, the date, and any other particulars of the plant, whether reputed poisonous, pestiferous, medicinal, or useful.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF BOTANY,

Washington, D. C., June 14th 1886.

Prof. Gerard Watson,
My dear Sir

I send you a small package by mail to day, and really hesitate to do so, for I know you must have enough to do without helping dull scholars. But the plants I send are mostly of some difficult orders which you have studied and will probably know at a glance - If they are imperfect and not worth the trouble of naming, then throw them away. I send also 2 sheets of *Eatonia* which please retain. I want to know if ~~any~~ the specimens of *E. Pennsylvanica* are typical. I also send a *Paspalum* to be compared with No 350 Drummond. It is much like *P. setaceum* but different as you will see. There is also in Texas a form of *P. setaceum* (No 803 E. Hall) which has pubescent spikelets but wanting the lower glume, and rounder in form. I saw in your Herbarium No 364 Drummond which I think is ticketed by Munro *P. elatum* Rich. According to my recollection that looks like No 369 E Palmer, Indian Terr. Coll. 1868. Will you please examine and let me know.

Yours truly
Geo. Vasey

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U. S. Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF BOTANY,

Washington, D. C., 188

7. Represent to the Commissioner and the Committee ~~the~~
1st The utility and importance of the Herbarium - that it should as fully as possible represent the vegetation of the United States, and the status of Botany in this country - that it is valuable and should receive the support and patronage of the Government.
2. That it was founded upon the collections made in the explorations and surveys of the Government when it was the custom to employ botanists, and other naturalists in connection with such surveys, but that some 10 years ago natural history work was discontinued on the surveys in consequence of which all recent additions to the Herbarium have been restricted to purchases of such collections as could be obtained.
3. That the plants now wanted in the Herbarium are mainly such as are found in remote districts, "out of the line of ordinary travel, and can only be obtained by special collection, and that means should be placed at the disposal of this Department to resume the work of botanical explora-



Vasey, George. 1886. "Vasey, George June 14, 1886 [to S. Watson]." *George Vasey letters to Asa Gray*

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