

ferns, but I was unacquainted
with their work in that direction
until after I had begun my
own investigations. I think however,
that I am fairly entitled to the
credit of having done the very
first work of the kind in this
country & of having brought forward
the result of my study in an
entirely new light for this or
any country, so far as I now
know. I found the genus
in great confusion & have the
satisfaction of knowing that I have
done something, & hope to do more,
toward clearing up away that
confusion, & placing the different
species on a clear foundation.
I have a great desire to visit those
wonderful "North Woods" of Mrs. Barnes'
& am hoping something will turn up
to enable to do so. Meanwhile I
hold my Syracuse friends in grateful
remembrance. Respectfully
Geo. E. Davenport

1-24-78

Mrs. Myers,
My Syracuse friends
never trouble me, I assure
you. It is gratifying to me
to know that I have been
of any assistance to them,
and I will gladly continue
to render them any service
that I can with pleasure;
Why should I not? Their
generous dispositions toward
me is so constantly shown,
that the services they have
rendered me far outweigh,
in my own mind, all that I
have done, or can do for them.
I admire your enthusiasm
and wish you had a correspond-
ing degree of health for then I
am sure you would accomplish

a great deal. It seems
strange to me some times
that so many of natures
devotees should suffer from
ill health & physical incapacity
to avail themselves of all the
means for enjoyment & happi-
-ness that our "Good Father"
has surrounded us with in
this world. Why does she
not grieve to us some "elixir
of life" that will fit us for
undergoing every service in her
behalf without fatigue?

I thank you for your kind
interest in my humble work
do I not know what it is
to be encouraged by kindly
sympathy? How often I have
~~shrank~~ sunk under the chilling
word of some cold nature, and
shrank from offering anything

through fear of meeting harsh
perhaps unjust criticism. But
the kindly encouragement with
which my fern notes & studies
have met - from many sources
wholly unexpected - draws me
on to other & perhaps better
work in the field I have chosen
for my speciality. O no, I trust
I shall never be betrayed into
uttering anything that will
serve as a check on another
or be unwilling ever to aid
any one when it is in my power
to do so.

I want to correct one error
into which you have fallen in
regard to the Botichium buds. I
did not discover them. O no,
the German botanists had treated
of them to some extent only long
before I had ever thought of



Davenport, Geo. E. 1878. "Davenport, George E. Jan. 24, 1878 [to F.J. Myers]."
George Edward Davenport correspondence

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