

Needford, Mass, Aug. 27-80.

Mrs. Meyers.

This evening I will answer your letter of the 19th more particularly. I read it with a great deal of pleasure and interest. I can well believe Prof. Dudley enjoyed every moment of the time he was with you.

I have been wondering if Green Lake is not the loveliest sheet of water that I visited in 1858 & from whose shores I brought home some pebbles. I remember that I left the hotel one morning after breakfast for a walk and after passing through Salina, — stopping long enough to go through some of the Salt-works there — I kept on until I came to a lake, where I passed a pleasant hour before returning to Syracuse which I reached in season for dinner, having walked both ways.

And then, I have to confess, frankly, that my own mind is not clear on that subject. I have never been very ~~strongly~~ ~~impressed~~ ~~disposed~~ ~~toward~~ the doctrine of evolution — but have not investigated it with sufficient care to know whether I should come finally to accept or reject it. By one thing I am sure, I could never accept of any thing that did not harmonize with my belief in God as the source of all the wonderful manifestations of Divine Skill & power every where visible in the Universe.

I have received the two forms of *spinulosum* — a dwarf specimen, the type & a large pinna from the var. ? or *Americanum*? — ~~and it is remarkable how well the distinction between the two collected in S. E. Alaska by John Muir, and it is remarkable how well the distinction between the two forms is shown~~ I have rec'd a single spec. of *A. boreale* from Dr. Schneck, who wrote that it was all he could spare. I have

My impression now is that I was told that it was "Green Lake" and I remember it ^{as} a remarkably clear & beautiful lake with charming surroundings.

I had a number of walks about Syracuse that season but had no interest in Botany then, as you can judge when I tell you that I visited Chittenango Falls, and never gathered *Scolopendrium*.

If I had known anything of forms at that time I might possibly have found *B. Lumaris* when I "tramped" over the Jamesville Road, but I am glad that it was left for Mrs Rust to discover.

I believe that I acknowledged the rec^d of the papers, and as I ordered them you must permit me to enclose stamps enough to cover what I suppose to be the price of them. The printer did

remarkably well with the paper the only error of any ac being ~~the~~ *Archegonia* for *trichegonia*.

I did not think in time or I would have added a note explaining why I took the Linnæan view of the Vegetable Kingdom instead of the more recent scientific view which considers all plant-life as one connected series of forms proceeding through a gradual evolution of forms from the lowest to the highest.

Some of my scientific friends I know would "rap me over the knuckles" for that part of my paper but I had no thought of publishing it at the time and in a free popular talk I thought I could better define the limits of the Cryptogamous plants by recognising the apparently natural division of the Vegetable Kingdom into flowering & flowerless plants.

sent him a good supply of the
rarer ferns & shall try to get
more of it if I possibly can. You
shall have the first duplicate that
I get. I have some doubts about
the correct-identity of this one as I
find a marked difference in its
bud. and ~~the~~ foreign spec. from
which I described the vernation and
I need more of it for verification
I intend to give it a more
careful examination & may have
my doubt removed. The fern was
identified by Prof. Eaton ~~to~~ whom
I was indebted for the opportunity
to secure a specimen.

You may yet hear from Dr Ander-
son. Mr Moody I have not
seen for some time, but I know
that he has been very busy.

Very Respectfully
Geo. E. Davenport



Davenport, Geo. E. 1880. "Davenport, George E. Aug. 27, 1880 [to F.J. Myers]."
George Edward Davenport correspondence

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