

Apr. 5, 1904

Dear William:

Since the ~~late of the~~ last election of new members to N.S. Bot Club. I have proposed, at different times, ~~the~~ three men for new-renew membership. It seems to me that all of these ~~men~~

would be worthy and desirable members although I realize that the Council may ^(and correctly) think otherwise.

I understand that the Council has taken a more rigid stand in regard to ^{memberships} qualification ~~for of~~ ~~new members~~.

If this understanding is correct it is possible that this increased standard ^{will} ~~would~~ debar some ^{even} or all of these men I have proposed.

It is probable that no ~~one~~ ^{much if} member of the Council knows ^{much if} anything about these ~~four~~ men personally. Therefore I am taking the liberty of writing to you and Mr. Fernald about them.

Please do not think I am going to ask you to vote for them at the Council meeting. I don't want anyone to do that if they think the candidates do not come up to the present requirements. My only object in writing to you and Mr. Fernald is to let you know some facts about these men and

Thus not have all of the members of the Council go to
the meeting entirely ignorant in regard to ^{them} ~~who and~~
~~the qualifications~~
~~that these should be made~~

Since I have been a member of the Club I have taken
three visitors there. Two of these are now proposed
for membership, viz. Messrs. Burlingame and Whipple. Perhaps
you may remember one or both of them.

Mr. E. H. Burlingame is a civil engineer, about 67
years of age. A few years ago on account of failing
health, due largely to overwork in the high altitudes of
the Rocky Mts., he ~~soon~~ gave up active engineering
work.

(For more than 30 years) He has been
interested in Botany (at times finding but little time to
~~gratify his~~ follow his hobby in a scientific manner.
He tells me he has a few specimens in his herbarium
collected 52 years ago. When he first became interested,
half or more of his collecting has been in N. E.
His herb., in, ~~a~~ judging from numerous specimens
which I have seen, composed of well selected,
carefully checked and neatly mounted specimens, though
it is not very large ~~by the time~~ probably not exceeding
1000 sheets. He ^{usually} does his own determining ~~of~~

The only specimens he has brought to B.W. numbered
have been troublesome things from the Montana
Rocks.

Mr. Edw. E. Whipple ^(39 years old) is the Pawtucket machinist
whom I first met a few years ago. Mr. Chamberlain
and I have made one or two trips with him and
found him a modest, ~~well~~ intelligent man, well posted
botanically and enthusiastic about things which
near Rhodora which he evidently reads carefully
and applies the knowledge thus gained to his own
^{specimens} ~~herbarium~~. Unfortunately Mr. Whipple seems to have

only Saturday afternoons & Sunday mornings for botanical
work, and not always those apparently. Since I
became acquainted with him he has begun a
herbarium which now numbers about 500 specimens,
practically all collected in the vicinity of his home.

These specimens are well made and very neatly mounted
and almost invariably correctly determined.

He has been considerably interested in the violets ~~and~~
of his region. One day he came to the B.W. Herb. and
appeared a bit discouraged. I learned he had been trying
to apply Pollard & Greene's descriptions to B.W. violets with
somewhat unsatisfactory results. I enlightened him ~~on~~
~~entirely~~ ^{botanical} in regard to the general opinion of the

aforsaid description. You should have seen the relieved look that came over his face when he realized that ~~he was not~~ ^{it} ~~the first one who had~~ ~~found difficulty~~ ~~with him~~ ^{the} trouble was not due to ignorance on his part as he had apparently feared.

Mr. Geo. H. Leland is an active civil engineer 55 years old. He formerly lived in Vermont (Windsor) and considerable of his collecting was done there. He has also done considerable ~~of his~~ collecting here in R.I.; also some in Alabama, Cuba, and ~~Wilmington N.C.~~ He has exchanged ~~some~~ extensively and now has an excellent herbarium of about 4000 different species including about 400 species of ferns, a group in which he is specially interested. He came to Prov. some 15 or 20 (?) years ago highly recommended by the late H. S. Joseph of Dartmouth. I have had the pleasure of making several trips with him and ^{have} found him an acute observer an earnest and careful collector and a ^{quiet} ~~most~~ unassuming

gentleman.

If after reading the above you feel inclined
to say a good word for them I shall be glad
although I shall not expect ^{you to do} it unless you
feel that it will be to the best interests of
the club & so

Y F C



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