

SERENO WATSON,
Curator.

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Feb 19th 1891

My Dear Sir,

I was called away to attend a brother's funeral soon after the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., and its acknowledgment has consequently been delayed. A thorough education is an essential to a first-class botanist as to any one, and the broader it is the better and broader in its reach will be the work that he can do. At the least he should be able to read Latin, French & German, and have some knowledge of

Our work is just now giving pressing, but if I merit your give his aid soon, finding his whole time to it now, it is most likely there with the beginning of the next college year the field will be as clear as that a full half of his time could be given to him. Of course his health and capacity & liking for hard work are to be taken into account.

With sincere regards to Mrs. Fernald & yourself I remain

Yrs. very truly

Sereno Watson

Mrs. M. C. Fernald

Sereno

Watson

Brooks. Your son should not
therefore be taken from his col-
legiate studies unless, as you propose,
arrangements can be made for a
continuation of these general
studies while ~~he~~ is giving a portion
of his time to work in the Museum.
I think that this can be done.

I send you one of our Catalogues,
by which you will see that all ~~many~~
of the college courses are open to
special students, though as I am.
Understand such students can be received
only at the beginning of the college
year. I find on inquiring that it would
be possible for Merritt, while spending
any half his time at the Museum,

to carry on the full college course, and thus in
time fit himself for a degree, toward which it
is probable that his Museum work and proficiency,
i. e. the special instruction given him here, would ~~directly~~
be allowed to count.

It is a matter upon which I do not like to advise.
You, who know your son probably better than we know
himself, are better equipped to decide on there is any
possibility in our view as. If you desire any more particu-
lar information respecting the college work Prof. F. C. de Surin-
court, one of the secretaries in charge of the special
students, with any willing answers any questions, as if
certain with regard to these matters.



Watson, Sereno. 1893. "Watson, Sereno Feb. 19, 1893." *Merritt Lyndon Fernald correspondence*

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