

Buckfield, Me., Sept. 1894.

To the Board of Visitors to the Botanic
Garden of Harvard University.

Gentlemen:

I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr.
Felker L. Temple of Somerville, a member
of the Mass. Horticultural Society.

I have substituted blanks for the name
and nationality of the gardener mentioned
in it. I do not suppose that a gardener,
any more than a man of another
calling, is necessarily a ruffian.

Therefore, this extraordinary development
of ruffianism ^{in the Garden}, which has spared
from insult neither women nor aged men
as Dr. Gray and Dr. Watson, venerated
for their learning and character throughout
the world, must be due to the director's bad
judgement in selecting his subordinates and
his weakness and negligence in
managing them. I do not think that
the Arboretum has had any difficulty

of this sort. Since the Garden is almost entirely useless, it seems that the University would be stronger without it than with it, if it is to continue a source of scandal and disgrace. Mr. Seaton, the late assistant curator of the Herbarium, described it to me fully in a few words, saying, "It is really not a botanic garden; it is only a flower garden". It would be desirable to ascertain what proportion the amount of material furnished to the students by the Garden bears to that coming from the Bussey Institution, and what proportion the cost of maintaining the Garden bears to the sum paid the Bussey Institution for material. I doubt whether the Garden furnishes a hundred dollars worth of material yearly, and beyond producing this, it renders no service whatever to either science or education. In conclusion let me remind you that I have not asked from you a report condemning the management of the Garden, but only a report

advising an investigation by disinterested experts. If you believed that the director had not been incompetent and negligent, it would be your duty to him, since my charges are now widely known, to give him an opportunity to disprove them so that all might be convinced. This could only be done by such an investigation as I request. If you think that he has been incompetent and negligent, a thorough proof is equally desirable.

Very respectfully yours,

John A. Allen.



Allen, John A. 1894. "Allen, John A. Sept 1894 [to Board of Visitors]." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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