

The Gerard Hotel, 123 W. 44th ST/

May 14th, 1898.

Dear Dr. Kennedy,

I enclose a few specimens of *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, var *oblongifolium* (Nutt.) which Dr. Rusby collected at Willoughby Noach, for your N.E. Botanical club collection of which I see by the circular you are one of the curators of the Cryptogam collections. We have not received except indirectly any notice of the organization of your club nor a copy of your new journal, which Prof. Knowlton tells me you are about to start. I am very much interested and think just such cooperation according to sections will do more to give us a thorough knowledge of the flora of the country than anything else that can be done. It is just what I have been preaching for years, local work coordinated. Mr. Davenport told me that he was to read a paper on *Ophioglossum* before your club this winter, but did not tell me what he was going to say about the new species described by me. It would be an excellent thing to bring together notes and specimens from all your N.E. localities, I hear that Mr. Alvah A. Eaton has specimens from the sand near the sea-shore at Newburyport, Mass. which I should much like to see. Of course the differences in *O. vulgatum* are so numerous, that it is difficult to draw specific lines, but ^{even then} ~~when~~ if they are only of varietal value the differences are such, that several well-marked and more or less constant forms can be designated. This one Nuttall has indicated in his herbarium by name, as *oblongifolium* and referred to in his genera. You will also find some reference to it in Bromfield's *Flora vinctensis* Yours truly

Edw. S. Benth



Britton, Elizabeth G. 1898. "Britton, Elizabeth G. 14 May 1898." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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