

New Dorp, Staten Id. N.Y. City.

Nov. 23d, 1898.

near Mr. Kennedy,

Your friend Mr. W.A. Lorenz of Hartford Ct. has written to me that he has a fine photograph of the Ostrich fern which he will send me. I have asked him if he will allow the use of his negative for making a lantern slide from. I shall be very glad to have one of this species. I also have some very fine photographs from Philadelphia of several rare ferns. Mr. Davenport has kindly put all his at my disposal also. I wish you and Mrs. Kennedy could find it convenient to be with us at that time, perhaps you will be on your way, back and forth from Florida or elsewhere. --- I made ^{swr} the Raphidostegium from Bronx park, ^{du} H. microcarpum but I remember now that we thought the Blue Hill one, H. demissum. I have not those species here at home with me, but will discuss the question further when I get up near the Herbarium. Dr. Grout has written to me that he is a candidate for the position that Dr. Farlow offered Mr. Howe in August and has asked you and me to help him. Of course, I think very highly of his fitness for the work, but I have already told you and Dr. Farlow that I think Mr. Collins has greater ability if properly guided and assisted. He is neater and more methodical than Dr. Grout, and I think is less anxious to work for show and position than for the sake of the work. You perhaps realize this from what little you know of the two men. I should be sorry to see Dr. Holzinger, who has been mentioned also

as a candidate, as they tell us very damaging stories of his work at the University of Minnesota, and a few questions directed either to Prof. Macmillan or Prof. MacDougal would prove this statement. I shall be very glad to see a good, patient, clever worker at Harvard, and hope the appointment will be made soon, as I know we shall ask for questions to be answered there and send material there as soon as there is someone to use those valuable collections which are now idle. Unity of work and purpose is what we need in American Bryology and then we shall stop and put an end to this sending of American mosses abroad to be named and also such abominable results as Kindberg's garbling of Macoun's mosses. I think we are all agreed that no matter what we call our plants, they can be better known and studied by those who see them growing, than by those who do not even know whether Boston is a suburb of New York, now the differences and varieties of our geography and topography. Those of us who have been abroad and realized how little they know about us, feel very keenly about this, and are doing our best to stop it. And this is true not only of mosses but of insects, etc. etc. We are trying to keep the types here, and by creating new types and monographs we are succeeding in doing this much better than we did half a century ago. I am writing very frankly to you, but I know I can trust you and that if Dr. Farlow does take you into his confidence, you will know the truth as far as I can see it.

Yours very sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Britton

Will you not give the children
some chapbooks? just to keep in
in circulation. -



Britton, Elizabeth G. 1898. "Britton, Elizabeth G. 23 Nov 1898." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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