

"Hotel Kosmos", Corral, Chile
Jan. 6. 1906.

My dear Dr. Kennedy:

Since I came here from Concepcion (horrid place!) about five weeks ago I have often had you in mind and wished that you and Dr. Harlow could join me in some of my rambles or rather scrambles in these forests and share the pleasure of seeing the many lovely things in the way of ferns mosses hepatics and lichens with which they ~~are~~ decorated; and which, though hardly noticeable in dry weather, come out like a jack-in-the-box as soon as rain begins to fall. I have never before been in a filmy fern region and one's first view of their haunts is a sensation not soon to be forgotten. They are every where here in the woods, some growing on bushes and robes down to the water's edge, and, where they drape the rocks and tree trunks in the cool shady recesses that one finds when the brooks have cut deep ravines through the hills - Very beautiful. The woods in general in this neighborhood, which is one of hills or almost mountains, are very hard to penetrate, partly from the steep declivities and partly from the usually dense undergrowth of a huge fern and of the solid bamboo; but one can usually scramble up the brookways where the Raschias, bamboos and fallen trees permit, and here, on the cool moist rocks and banks as well as on the tree trunks, grows a profusion of mosses hepatics and lichens as well as filmy ferns. The mosses some of them very beautiful as you may judge from the two small bits that I enclose. I wish every thing were in good fruit, but suppose I should be duly grateful that so many have obliged me in this respect. The large dendritic *Polytrichum*, which I also enclose, with stem broken grows in the woods usually on earth wound up by fallen trees and some times is 18 inches tall; though seldom in fruit and not in good condition at this season. I feel a very ignorant among these things and regret very much that an expert should not occupy my shores for the moment; since the fungi, for which I came, are neither very abundant nor very peculiar and my Chilean experience has been a very disappointing one in this respect; though I have a small lot of about fifty new *Lecanobryes* from

here and from Buenos Ayres, but mostly from the latter place.

I am purposing to leave here in a few days by a Kosmos steamer for Punta Arenas in the Straits and hope to see the famous Smyth's Channel, but I believe the route taken by these boats is not always fixed and I may be disappointed. I had intended to go from Punta Arenas to southern Tierra del Fuego but I fear that, for several reasons, I shall have to abandon this portion of my programme and either go for a month to the Falklands or directly to Buenos Ayres after which my movements are quite uncertain and I may even return without attempting the tropics.

Dr. Harlow wrote me a short time since that the Botanical Club had celebrated its 15th birthday, & it is hard to believe that it can be so aged! Hoping you all had a good time and wishing I had been there too, believe me

Sincerely yours

Roland Thaxter.

Hope you will excuse "Hotel Kosmos" stationery!



Thaxter, Roland. 1906. "Thaxter, Roland 6 Jan 1906." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/173267>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/285402>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

IMLS

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.