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BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, SHANGHAI,
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BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A. July 14. 1898

My dear Doctor,

Your letter received yesterday morning reminds me that I have been planning to write to you for some time & give you an ak of our doings after you left us on Mt. W. - As you doubtless observed from below it cleared up that Monday morning so that we thought we should have fine weather. We stayed around the summit however till after dinner admiring the clouds & the view which was very distant. Could see the two hills on which Portland stands with the naked eye & miles beyond out at sea, in Casco Bay & towards Cape Elizabeth. The Western view remained cloudy. The clouds separated at first in two layers some settling way down in beautiful white masses & another layer far above us covering the mountain like an umbrella & giving a fine light for distant views.

Far to the north the sun shining brightly on the cloud masses while we were in shadow produced a most beautiful effect - like distant snow covered alps - a regular Bernese Oberland effect. - At dinner we had the honor if it be one of sitting next to royalty - the Crown Prince of Italy having called on purpose to see us. I thought at first he was his brother who climbed Mt. St. Elias but his aide de camp Major de Carparetto set me right. He had such stupendous Alpine boots on, all studded with enormous nails that you have lost a proud position in my esteem & I shall hereafter swear by the Count of Turin's boots - not yours any longer. Major de C. accompanied the Duke of the Abruzzi on his ascent of Mt. St. Elias.

They were 53 days on the glacier & the Mountain making the ascent by slow stages & shifting camp a very few miles each week. The Duke was the one who supplied the energy & enthusiasm & to him belongs the credit of conquering the mt. The others would have given up had it not been for him. Our prince was a very good looking boy about 26 years old I should think & appeared a nice sort of a chap. -

2 That afternoon we visited Mt. Clay & found
these marvellous masses of *Loiseleuria*, *Cassiope*,
Bryanthus & *Diapensia* - Vertical cracks in the very
massive rocks of the mountain were marked by
a thick festoon of either *Loiseleuria* or *Bryanthus*
in the finest of bloom - These were occasionally
ten feet long & I never saw such a sight - You
missed it - it was too bad. The sunset was murky
& the next AM. fog as usual - At 11 AM. it thinned
a little & we started in the fog & high wind for
the Lakes of the Clouds. We did not see a thing
the whole way & just as we reached *Potentilla*
frigida we were overjoyed to find much of it
still in good bloom. There's plenty for you & by
the way don't forget me on the fruit of the
Calypso. I do want it ever so much & am so glad
to hear you have got it. - With *Potentilla frigida*
came a frigid rain & a terrific wind was pouring
out of Baker's Gulf so as to scare us. We could
not see fifteen feet & although close by Murre
the mountain was invisible. We feared the wind
would become too much for us & decided to return.
We lunched in the shelter of a big rock above the
Lakes of the Clouds where there is a huge cairn which

Greenman called the Williams-Greenman monument
& retreated with nothing but *P. frigida*, *Luzula epicate*
& *Betula nana*. Wednesday AM. same fog but less
wind - We started at 8 AM. again for the Lakes
of Clouds & make the trip again in a dense wet
fog. At Oakes Gulf we descended into the ravine
building cairns as we went & found a most reworking
lot of fine things. *Viburnum pauciflorum* in beautiful
bloom, *Viola palustris*, *Carex atrata* a little young the
Salix argyrocarpa in fruit & but could not find a
male or a trace of one. I believe its an old maid
or a widder - fine flowering *Alnus viridis*, the *Betulas*,
beautiful *Claytonia* with the bulb by dint of much
care & labor, again lovely *Bryanthus*, the largest of
Houstonias, enormous *Viola carina Muhlbergii*,
perhaps *Bryum alpinum*, & all the usual things -
Greenman was wild & filled box & portfolio in a
fiffy which cost him many hours of hard labor
for several days thereafter. His 200 driers were
all used up & about a hundred of mine. All of
a sudden at 11.30 the fog lifted & from that time
on the weather was perfect. We had a glorious last
day of it visiting the Lakes of the Clouds in the PM.
& then slowly returning very tired at 6.30 after a long

3 Successful day. Mrs. Slosson arrived on that evening
& we had a pleasant talk with her, a beautiful
sunset which Greenman improved with a lot of
the Wellesley & Cambridge girls he was expecting &
a moonlight perfect night which Greenman likewise
improved. We got up Thursday AM. at 5.30 & saw
the sunrise in a cloudless sky. It was same
One needs the clouds for a fine effect & there
were none. The girls were on hand, rather sleepy
& bedraggled but Greenman woke them up appa-
rently for an hour or more & persuaded them
to remain till noon. After breakfast, much to
the detriment of his specimens he disappeared
but fortunately returned in time to pack his trunk.
He had been down the road two miles & on the
edge of the Alpine garden acting as cicerone to his
bevy of damselfs - some 12 or 15. - Really that
young man ought to be spoken to or another
good botanist will go wrong. I shall have the
ask to you as being a person of dignity & discretion
& if you are not equal to the emergency I will ask
Mrs. Kennedy to assist you. We were sorry to leave
Mt. Washington so smiling & also Mrs. Slosson who
had but just arrived but our time was short so

at noon we descended in a torrid heat to Fabyan's where it was too hot to stir & after waiting two hours for a train we fetched up at Crawford where we were received with open arms by the Merrills. They are fine fellows both of them & make you feel at once as if you owned the house. We were given fine rooms on the ground floor & had a lovely though warm evening. At Crawford we botanized the whole neighborhood doing Mt. Webster, Willard, the Notch, Avalon, Ammonoosuc Lake, the big bog. We did not have time to do Clinton for which I am sorry but I was most fagged out as it was. I don't climb as easily as I did & needed a day's rest and a day for Clinton which we did not have.

I have been back since July 5th & am somewhat settled in the old ruts again. At Crawford the most notable find was *Pyrola minor* on the Mt. Avalon path. Only one fine specimen & one very little one. I offered Greenman \$1 premium for *P. minor*, so when he found this beauty, fully equal to the one Churchill conveyed to his herbarium & which I dug, he let me have it. I spent last Sunday at Scituate where I got a few good additions to my herbarium. I dug up *Habenaria virens* for

4 the first time. I have always missed it so far by being away in July. Next Sunday I spend at the Robinsons at Manchester & probably the next at York Harbor so it will be some time before I can get out to Milton. Hal very kindly called on me & offered to go on trips with me there & I should much rather do that than go visiting but one must not lose all one's friends so I am sacrificing my inclinations to a sense of duty. I am sorry I missed your call for I shan't see you now I suppose till August. Rand too is at Mt. Desert till then.

I am glad you find plenty to collect still at W. in the phaeogams & I wish I were with you to help. The *Actaea alba* with thin pedicels we collected together on W. Mt. two years ago. I don't remember about the *Habenarias*, though I should say *H. frimbriata* was in the bag but a little later. *H. orbiculata*. I don't remember at W. - *H. psycodes* I have from Sutton, collected by a young girl four years ago who gave it to me - an elegant specimen with a spike a foot long.

I have not been out to see Charles Faxon yet, but will go early next week. Mr Higgins shines

with me tonight. He is going to So. Williamstown
for his vacation - Would to heaven he were a
botanist. We need collections from that region so
much! Please give my best regards to Mrs.
Kennedy & Miss Ingill - I hope they are both
well & enjoying Willoughby.

Sincerely Yours
Linn F. Williams



Williams, Emile Francis. 1898. "Williams, Emile F. 14 Jul 1898." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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