

Natural Bridge Hotels,

"FOREST INN"

"APPLEDORE"

"PAVILION"

»»OPEN ALL THE YEAR.◀◀

B. W. KLIPSTEIN,
Manager.

Natural Bridge, Va., 8 May 1887

My dear Mr Deane, There's so much to write that you must excuse incoherence & blunders. I think I left you at the station, in my last, at that rocky ledge which extends along the river bank. The Labiatae I found, was *Salvia lyrata* L., I shall get some more of the *Opuntia* to carry home, the leaves are just coming out. The *Celtis occidentalis* L. is mostly the variety growing on rocks, with the acuminate leaflet. There is plenty of it everywhere here. The *Dentaria* is *leucophylla* Nutt., except that I do not recollect that the petals (now fallen) were purple. At the Hotel a new manager, & new set of servants: we could not have our old rooms of last year, so have one large room & another for my botanical work. Friday morning we started to walk. This the Bridge weather very hot. We walked only a short distance beyond

the Saltpetre Cave when a low roll of thunder warned us of impending rain. altho Mrs. Kennedy hated to turn back she was persuaded by me & we walked pretty briskly to the Hotel, passing several people, school girls mostly, who said they were not afraid of the rain. We had hardly reached the Hotel when a most violent cloud burst came on & for ten minutes the deluge was tremendous, we were all right but the people behind ~~house~~^{us} came in in fearful plight. None of our last years showers equalled this. I remained at home the rest of the day for it rained at intervals; I did not get my second room & a place to look ~~for~~ at my plants till 4 o'clock, then I hastened to look at the most curious of my find, which was staminate specimens of *Chamaelirium luteum* Gray, which I had never seen before. It grew in that flat grassy place near the *Podophyllum* plant last year. There are a few more specimens, which will be further

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advanced in a day or two & I hope to get
 a fertile specimen. Then on the rocks
 by the Saltpetre cave I found *Carex*
pedunculata Muhl. a very curious
Carex wholly new to me, the perigynium
 set up on so curious a columnar base
 that I questioned at first if it was
 not some other Cyperaceae, but the
 description in Gray is perfect, tho.
 he does not mention it so far south.
 It was not plenty: I got four
 good specimens. I got also *Carex*
opulenta, phylla as I suppose. I saw
 almost all our last years plants, tho
 several of them seemed very much
 less abundant. Particularly *Silene*
Virginica & ^{+ *Chrysopsis Virginica*} *Lithospermum canescens*, &
 even the violets did not seem of as
 luxuriant a growth: the Walking Fern
 looked all dead, or dried up, tho I
 did not go far from the path to
 find any. I judged from the Podo-

phyllum's growth that I was here again
this year almost at the day we
went ~~off~~ ^{away} last year, & I shall hope
to come some day, two or three weeks
later in the season. The killing of a
rather large striped snake varied the
monotony of the walk, tho' not much
to the gratification of either Madam K. or
yr humble servant, as I hoped for her
sake we should not see a "Sarpint"
down here.

Yesterday (Saturday) we
walked the whole path to the Lac
Water falls and right under our
feet not a hundred yards from
where we turned back the day before
found quite a bunch of *Conopholis*:
six specimens I think I have. I had
described it to Mrs. Kundry & she first
noticed it while I was gazing at the
Bank; I thought it a good streak of luck.
At the Falls I got two sorts of *Vitis*, hardly
a flower, wh. I call vulpina, & indica.
The *Equisetum* along the bank seems to
be laevigatum. *Viburnum prunifolium* &
Hydrophyllum virginicum L. & five *Orchis*
spectabilis. I have as yet hardly left

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the beaten path, no scrambling up the banks &c as last year with you. Yesterday afternoon after a good deal of work on the morning plants I went out on the Hill behind the Hotel quite a rough rocky place, where one goes a little further than we did last year. Here I got *Polygala Senega* & have left a stunning specimen almost too large which I hope to find in full flower in a day or two. got the *Vaccinium stamineum* & saw what I suppose is *Gaylussacia frondosa*. *Oxalis violacea stricta* & fine specimens of *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *Asplenium Ruta.* *murum* & *Ebenum* & *trichomanes*. Also *Cynoglossum*, as I suppose, new to me. And a very small *Anemone* with absolutely sessile flower: the whole plant not over 4 inches high. I saw three

specimens of it, but only took one; I shall look for more of it as it is certainly very different from the type which is plenty enough here. And a *Ranunculus*, which I cannot place: and of which I have 3 specimens: it don't agree with anything in the Manual, has a very large handsome flower. I did not bring my list of our last year find here, so I don't know for sure what we got, and besides I have found something that you would think too, too, common. I have kept a list so far of what I have seen here (trees excluded) and it numbers 78 species; ~~so far~~, of these I have pressed 32, many of them common enough here & at home. I have not counted one or two unnamed *Carices*. We shall have to take three days I suppose for our home journey, so I shall have a great deal of time here. The air is most delicious, it's like food to the lungs, & we both enjoy the beauty of the young foliage of the oaks. Our kind regards to you & Mrs Deane.

Yours G & K.

P.S. Am so glad you like Ball's book!



Kennedy, George G. 1887. "Kennedy, George Golding May 8, 1887." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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