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MAYWOOD, VIA CHERRYDALE,
ARLINGTON CO., VA.

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 29. 1892

Dear Mr. Deane: Seeds have characters of value in identifying them if we only had time to study them more carefully. Usually when confronted with an unknown seed I section it or boil and dissect it to disclose the inner structure. The shape and position of the embryo are diagnostic in many cases. The shield-like embryo of the grasses usually placed obliquely at one end of the grain characterizes ^{them infallibly} ~~grasses~~. Sedges have a minute embryo near one end of a plentiful powdery endosperm. Families from Chenopodiaceae through Caryophyllaceae have a curved embryo lying around the disc-shaped endosperm. Some embryos are remarkably folded as those of Aceraceae, Geraniaceae, and Convolvulaceae. There are numerous good characters for seeds, but as almost everywhere in nature numerous intermediate stages also, so that a Key is out of the question.

Thanks for the invitation to come to Shelburne. I don't know that I will be able to take advantage

of it, but I should like to see your
mountains and their plants.

I hope my paper on Muhlenberg reached
you; if it did not I shall gladly send
another.

sincerely

A. R. Mcate



McAtee, W. L. 1922. "McAtee, Waldo Lee Mar. 29, 1922." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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