

Louisville 12
May 4

My Dear W Davenport

I have just got quit of business troubles for another week - and now for a few hours to ferries.

The transfer I send is (I think at least) an improvement on the last. The plate were etched deeper and they come out bolder in the printing! I am well pleased with the *A. Thelypteris*. I think the character of this fern is shown very well. all the *Lizis* are from nature with the exception of *Liz 4 & 5*. Plate 2, these I copied from Sachs. I want you now to look over every letter carefully, and report to ^{me} by P. Cord. I got two proofs I will check one. See if I have the names and spellings all right. I would rather that my book be a week or so behind and be free of errors, than rush it through carelessly.

I have received *Port. 475* of Eaton's *Ferns of Va.*. It is too bad that *Aspidium* Plat 13 should read *Asplenium*. Such carelessness cannot be excused! Prof Eaton ought to see every proof. The inclusion is very much like the one I have etched to illustrate the genus *Aspidium*.

In one of your letters you said that I had managed the *A. Novborascense* very well. I was not pleased at all with this etching and I think I ought to do it over again. The difficulty about the thing is this. It looks especially its outline is so like the *Thelypteris*, and the texture is so different

If I have time I will do it again; if not I will let it go, but it seems to me that I ought to show its delicate tissue a little better.

In such small plates it is impossible for me to give a good idea of the large ferns. I often wish I had a sheet as Mr. & Mrs. Norton to work upon.

I have to twist & bend my plants so much that they look a little awkward, ~~and~~ crowded like.

By the way I read the Saturday Review criticism on your Botrychies. It was very evident the

Reviewer did not know what he was talking about.

You might have named your plant as a member of the nat. ord Solanaceae and it would have made no difference to him, a compliment from Hooker is all any one wants. I am not troubling myself about

the outside non scientific magazines, if my book is well received by such men as Prof Gray, Eaton, Hooker &c - I will be perfectly satisfied.

I am waiting to hear from you regarding Polypody.

I expect to have another proof for you by the middle of the week. You have made me so familiar with your friend Mr. Robinson, that you must give him my

compliments, and if you hear of any adverse criticisms please report, I am always ready to listen to advice especially if from a proper source.

Yours friend
John Williamson



Williamson, John. 05-04. "Williamson, John May 4 [no year]." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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