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Louisville Ky-

March 25 1882

My Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your letter came to hand also the ferns please accept thanks I have had no time to look at them yet. we are very busy and working late. I regret to hear of the sudden death of your friend Mr. Whipple. What a pleasure it is to know such a man. I will always remember how kindly he spoke of you about my effort in an artistic way. I am sorry to hear of your own health being so poor I know how anxious you are to do work. I hope you will soon be able to resume your hand book but I think you ought to take a little more recreation this summer.

In your letter, you think I ought to go on with the ferns which I have then all etched. I thought so myself some time ago, but I have come to the conclusion to let them rest a little while. I want to get a good collection of all the ferns of N.A. and make my etchings from the best typical specimens I can get. Another thing. there is a peculiar effect to be produced in some of the California species that I am not sure about. In colored lithography it is comparatively easy to get that effect, but in Black and White it is more difficult. However I do not intend to abandon the ferns. I look forward to a long life and I

intended to make every minute count. The Orchidaceae is a Mat. Org
I have always had a hankering after. I want to study flower form
I do not know whether I shall ever publish anything on the subject
but merely for my own pleasure I will take this up.
Another thing I have been so absorbed with my fern studies the
last two or three years that I neglected other things, for instance
I want to spend most of my spare time in the woods this coming
summer, taking notes and observing nature's ways generally.
I went out one afternoon last week and collected quite a number of
spring flowers. I must tell you of a curious form of the petiole
I found. instead of the delicate flower coming up first as is always
the case, in one plant. there were two curious formed leaves, with five
regular lobes. The stem was similar to those that bore flowers on the
other plants. I intended sending the plant to Mr. Thos Meehan, who
may be interested in this abnormal form.

I send you a part of European Ferns sent me by my English
correspondent. I am a little disappointed with the treatment of Ferns.
The text seems full of Fern lore. I thought probably you might like to
see this. I am promised all the numbers of this work. By the way
what about Eaton's Fern of N. A. I have not heard a word about
this for a long time. The last numbers I have are: 22 & 23.

Our mutual friend Mr. Hyginus is now in Boston. I suppose you have seen him.
He is a delightful correspondent. He is looking after some art matters for
me in connection with the American Art Review. I have had no time
to forward your copy of Fern Etchings yet. You know my business has to be attended
to first. But I have not forgotten you. Your cordial friend, John Williamson



Williamson, John. 1880. "Williamson, John Mar 25, 1880." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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