

926 Grand Ave  
Rockford Ill  
Dec 27 1900

My dear Mr Deane:-

The house was full on Christmas day but since then guests have taken their departure and our immediate home circle has thinned out until only Anna, Mattie & Frank are left with Mrs B. and myself: giving a quiet opportunity for those of us who remain to tide over that most trying period - a week of reaction following excessive Christmas hilarity.

I doubt if you can realize the enthusiastic reception which was given your photographs. Mattie went off into ecstasies over the one of yourself declaring it to be a most capital likeness - I fancy she quite prides herself upon



knowing the Deanees personally are  
a disadvantage over the rest of us not  
to be gainsaid. The Rhododendron  
under a large lens is wonderfully  
beautiful. The leathery texture and  
gloss of the leaves and even the  
waxy consistence of the flowers are  
brought out admirably. It is only  
by outlines that I should ever recognise  
this as the original of the cut which  
appeared in The Garden. At present  
~~they~~ <sup>the two</sup> occupy a place on the mantel  
shelf - but by & by I shall get them  
into my room. And by the way you  
would laugh to see my study in  
its present condition - I must premise  
that when the house was planned Mrs  
B. and myself were agreed that it would  
be a cozy, nice arrangement all round  
to have my room open out of the  
family sitting-room. The practical  
outcome of this has been that upon  
occasions of emergency the study is  
made a mighty convenient place



to toss rubbish and shut the door  
upon it - Just now the floor is  
literally covered with litter - manilla  
wrapping paper - thrown hastily out  
and thrown down in a tangle (Oh  
how sadly good Miss Edgeworth's lesson  
in "Waste not want not" is forgotten  
nowadays -). Boxes of all sorts and  
sizes - made of tissue paper - and in  
the midst of all the frame-work  
of a puppet show! In all candour  
I must add that when I do take  
possession of my domain and  
turn it to legitimate use my  
exclusive right therein is respected  
to an extent almost laughable - and  
furthermore that in the present  
instance of converting it into a  
convenient catch-all I myself  
have been chief offender.

If it were not that I have  
so many old scores to clear off - and  
can not altogether depend upon myself



to carry out good intentions I shall  
write to Dr Sandberg and propose a  
little exchange - When I know of  
any one who really appreciates a  
good specimen I am always glad  
to share what I have - even regardless  
of the good prospects - During the years  
that my herbarium of Gray Man. Plants  
was in process of formation Oh what  
a number of first class collectors  
there were - Then came a ~~traveller~~  
the men that followed were bound I  
suppose that their work should not  
be recognized as that of "a mere collector"  
A few attempts at exchange with these  
makers "bated my" satisfaction and  
I quit - I hope that one Walter Deane  
is the forerunner of another group  
of good field botanists - and I should  
like to come down like a Rip Van  
Winkle among them - For the  
honest. what little so called original  
work I have ever done in botany has  
been the result of extraneous  
pushing - what I really enjoy is  
collecting, and my herbarium. and a  
little



Bebb, M. S. 1890. "Bebb, Michael Schuck Dec. 27, 1890." *Michael Schuck Bebb letters to Walter Deane*

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