

Springfield

Feb. 26. 1885-

Mr. Walter Deane.

Dear Sir,

I wish I had never found *Woodwardia angustifolia* in Nantucket, it would be such a pleasure to learn of so noble an addition to its flora. But if I must tell the disappointing truth, this *Woodwardia* is almost our commonest fern; *Pteris aquilina* grows perhaps more abundantly, or though I don't feel sure of it. I wonder if Miss Parsons found it on the Lenox road opposite the fifth mile stone; there it grows in such luxuriance that the only trouble is to find fronds small enough to press, — the costs can by no ingenuity be raised to herbarium size. When I first found that delightful locality

my emotion would have entirely
overcome me, if my companion
had not, with great presence of mind,
flung his hat high into the air to
assist me in my expression. That
happened to be in August, 1879, but
I had seen the plant before that,
and so had Mr. Dame of Medford.

I suppose you write to me, because
I furnished a list of the plants
of the island (sadly imperfect at that
time) for Mr. Godfrey's Guide-book,
but if this fern is not in the list, it
is a strange error of the printer's, and
a great oversight in the proof reader.
It is in my original written list which
I still have, but the Guide book is not
at hand just now.

How canst Miss Parsons hunt up
Schizaea pumila when she goes to
Nantucket again? Many a botanist,

familiar with the New Jersey localities,
less than our island is just the
place to express it - So wishing her
that feather in her cap,

I remain

Yours very truly
Maria L. Owen.



Owen, Maria L. 1885. "Owen, Maria Louisa Feb. 26, 1885." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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