

Springfield
Mar. 3. 1885.

plants on the island, known by only one representative each, one might not see at first how this little thing can be scarce, but it is; they are in their places every year and all through the year - fixed stars; this is comet-like, unexpected in its coming, visible for a short time, and then absent for years.

Yours very truly

Maria L. Owen.

Dear Mr. Deane,

I send with pleasure by this same mail specimens of *Trod.* ang - not very nice because immature; but it is a late fern, and I go to Mount and leave too early to get it in perfection. I don't care for anything in return as I have no herbarium of my own; I collect a few rarities when I am on the island only to give away, and that pleasure is its own reward. Will if you want to do something for me, you might ask Judge Churchill if he found anything new last July, sedges or grasses particularly. His love of the sedges may account for his not noticing this fern and indeed it is not conspicuous anywhere, but it is common. It grows at Bloomingdale for some distance, and on both sides of the road; at Haverhill where *Hibiscus Moscheutos* grows, in

several places between Eatfrie and Trau-
winer on the road and off from it; there is
a fine patch by a bridge, on the road to
Polpis, and another between Tonesse and Suncoty,
a plenty of it all along Love Lane, and ^{there is} that
place opposite the eighth mile stone, besides
other places where I think I have seen it
but made no note of it in my mind. I
compared it as to abundance with *Pteris*
aquilina a little doubtfully, as I have
paid too little attention to that common
fern, not minding whether it was present
or absent. I shall observe it more care-
fully when I am on the island again,
for I think I may find var. *caudata*
there.

Your postal card was all right, but
so I detect in your explanation a gentle
reproof of the levity of my reply? What
could one say? I sympathized with Miss
Parsons if she thought she had found some-
thing new, and had got to be disappointed,

and so I thought I must amuse her
a little. But I was quite in earnest
about the Schizaeae; nothing that grows
in New Jersey can astonish me in man-
tucket.

Then we botanists are known an ami-
able class there is never any danger
of offence when none is intended, and
when our fair science is the theme -

Mr. Dancy has not sent me your
list yet, but he will some time. I am
not at work on my catalogue now but
hope to take hold of it later in the spring.
I mean for it to be a guide for strangers
botanizing on the island. For instance,
when you were at Pitts's Pond you would
have been glad to know that *Utricularia*
subulata, L. had been found on the sandy
beach close to the water's edge. This is
our very scarcest plant, although its
variety *christiana* is abundant in three
other localities. When there are several



Owen, Maria L. 1885. "Owen, Maria Louisa Mar. 3, 1885." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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