

Fruitland Nurseries
P. J. Berckmans, Proprietor.

Augusta, Ga. Nov 9 1882

My dear Doctor

I received your very kind letter last July as I was leaving home for upper Georgia & as I was away from home for several weeks at intervals I omitted to thank you for your friendly remembrance of us. One of my anticipated pleasures upon my last visit to Boston in Sept 1881 was not realized I called at your home before your return & begged Mr Falconer to say to you how much I would have enjoyed seeing you. When you were here you told me that once while at Montpellier France you had a taste of *Diospyros Kaki* & remembered it as a "Bonne bouche". My crop of this fruit is now arrived at full growth & my wife asks me to send you & Mrs Gray a specimen each to give you another opportunity to taste the fruit & also to rest assured that we often think of you and would be most happy if we could have another & longer visit from you

and Mrs. Gray. My sons and niece are all
well, the two younger have been away from
us during the past three years, they are at
Athens at the University of Ga one a Sophomore
& the other a Junior & both good students.
My wife has been in most excellent health
and feels like myself that we have many
blessings meted out to us and our home is
a happy one.

My niece Mrs Gray has just returned from a
four months visit North. We all join in
kindest regards to Mrs Gray & yourself & with
best wishes for your continued good health I am
Sincerely yours
J. Beckman

The tree which produced the Perseimons sent by
mail was planted in March 1880, & then one year
old. Last year it produced 8 specimens. This year
I cut off upwards of 100 when fully set & left
40 to arrive at perfection. The tree is only 5 feet
high. Had six varieties in fruit but most
ruined last month & were too tender in texture to
stand the mailing. The variety is "Tanenashi"
or seedless. I hope you will like the flavor when
fully ripe. Let it remain until quite soft.

① List of Nebraska plants, or rather of such plants as must certainly be noted as extending to Nebraska.

— Made up ~~by~~ taking Gray's Manual. —

-
- Clematis virginiana* L. Common.
Asclepias patens L. var. *metalliana* — Northern Nebraska
 " *decapetala* — Common.
 " *cylindrica* Gr. "
 " *virginica* L. "
Ranunculus cymbalaria Pursh. common on the prairie and plains.
Myosurus minimus L. very common at Lincoln.
Aquilegia canadensis L. Eastern Nebr.
Primula triloba Daniel. South eastern Nebr.
Podophyllum peltatum L. " " "
Nelumbium luteum Willd. Eastern Nebraska.
Gynophtea latifolia Pursh " "
Nephus adonia Hit. " "
Languina canadensis L. " "
Dicentra cucullata DC. " "
Viola cucullata Hit. very common
 " " var. *palmaria* — occasionally found.
 " *serpyllifolia* Hit. very common.

From a long continued observation of these three forms, I am confident that the var. *palmaria* is only an intermediate form between the other two. *V. cucullata* grows upon more moist rich land, while *V. serpyllifolia* grows upon more dry, poor land. If the last is grown upon rich soil it readily becomes *palmaria*. I have been unable to make out any difference whatever between the flowers of the three forms.

Dr Gray's suggestion to make *palmaria* the type of the species is most certainly an error. It is but a connecting form, and is not ex-

-titled, in my opinion, to some varietal rank.
V. cucullata is the proper species, while
V. alphimifolia is itself scarcely deserving of
 more than the rank of a variety of it.

Salix americana L. Eastern Neb. and to Long
Impatiens pallida Nutt } Pine.
 " *fulva* Nutt } - Long Pine.

Okalis violacea L } Common -
 " *missata* L }

Xanthoxylum americanum Mill. Eastern Nebraska, and
 to Long Pine.

Rhus glabra L. very common -

" *toxicoendrica* L. " "

Vitis cordifolia Michx.) Common -

" *riparia* -

Ampelopsis grapefolia Michx. Common.

Rhamnus lanceolata Pursh - Eastern Nebraska.

Ceanothus americanus L - Common

" *ovalis* Agilv. - less common.

Celastrus scandens L. - Common.

Euonymus atropurpureus Jacq. - Eastern Nebraska.

Acer dasycarpum Michx. Common in the
 eastern half of Neb. where it is
 the only Maple.

Negundo aceroides Michx. throughout the State.

Viotalana sagittalis L. Eastern Nebraska, where
 it is said to produce "loos" in horses

Oxytropis ^{and cattle} ~~Lamberti~~ Pursh. Common - Like the pre-
 -ceding this is regarded as a "Loos weed"

Cercis canadensis L. ^{South} Eastern Nebraska

- Gymnocladus Canadensis* Lam. East Neb.
Gleditsia tracanthos L. " "
Prunus Americana Marshall. common throughout the state.
 " *pumila* L. Central Nebraska, very common. (Called universally "Saw Cherry") and used for posts &c. The cherries are dark purple-black, and average half an inch in diameter. When fully ripe they are very good eating indeed, with but little astringency.
Prunus virginiana L. Eastern Nebraska, going way westward to —
 " *demissa* Welf. (at Long Pine) The cherries are about one third of an inch in diameter, and purple-black. They may be freely eaten uncooked, possessing no more astringency than P. serotina. When made into pie &c they are most excellent, as I can testify from personal experience at Long Pine. The shrubs are small consisting of numerous small slender shoots which form immense thickets.
Prunus sentina - Shrub, entire Nebraska
Pyrus coronaria L. North eastern Nebraska.
Echinocystis lobata T & G. very common
Aspinum dwanicatum Benth. & Hook. Southern Nebraska
Pentstemon grandiflorus Moench. Common —
Osmorhiza mollis Michx. common — but one plant appears to be midway between Caroliniana and mollis.
Mertensia virginica Moench. Eastern Nebraska.

Asclepias cornuti Decaisne - Common. A most troublesome weed in cultivated fields.

" *Sullivantii* Engelm. Central Iowa, and Nebr.

" *tuberosa* L. common.

" *verticillata* L. "

Maxima *Aurea* L. Western to Central Iowa certainly, and I think to Eastern Nebr.

" *viridis* Michx. f. All over the state. The principal weed of the plains. abundant.

" *pubescens* Lam. with the last, but less abundant.

" *sambucifolia* Lam. Western to Central Iowa certainly, and I think to Eastern Nebraska.

Oxybaphus rystegium Link. common

" *angustifolius* Link. "

" *hirsutus* Link. ? What I take to be this species occurs in Eastern Nebr.

Cycloloma platyphyllum Moquin. Abundant in Central and Northern Nebr. where it is one of the "Tumble-weeds".

Corispermum hyssopifolium L. Long Pine. Another "Tumble weed".

Amaranthus albus L. Common - as if native - This is the most common "Tumble weed" of the prairies and plains.

" *blitoides* Wats. common.

Thorslavia floridana Moquin. Long Pine.

Polygonum sagittatum L. Long Pine.

Achillea fulva Michx. Eastern Nebr.

" *Aurea* Willd. Throughout the state.

Morus rubra L. North Eastern Nebraska.

Platanus occidentalis L. Eastern Nebr.

Juglans cinerea L. Not now known to be in the state, but I have seen nuts which were dug out of alluvial soil in the eastern part of the state, indicating that it was nearly a native.

Juglans nigra L. Common in the southern ^{Nebraska} parts, and along the northern part to Long Pine.

Carya alba Nutt. South Eastern Nebr.

" *amara* Nutt. " " "

Quercus alba L. " " "

" *macrocarpa* Michx. Eastern and Northern Nebr.

Several other Oaks extend westward across the Missouri River, but *Q. macrocarpa* is the only one which extends out upon the plains as far as Lincoln. It becomes smaller and smaller upon the plains, but in the valley it is of good size, even into the Black Hills of Dakota.

Corylus americana Walb. Long Pine ~~Nebr.~~

Ostrya virginica Willd. " " and extends
— to the Black Hills, Dak.

Arisaema triphyllum Torr. Eastern Nebr.

" *Dracunculus* Schott " "

Scumma minor L. common.

" *polytricha* L. " (In flower in pool
in an island in Platte river, 1872)

Typha latifolia L. common.

Ruppia maritima L. In salt ponds at Lincoln.

Iris ~~*versicolor*~~ ^{*versicolor*} & very common. ~~but not common~~

Erythronium albidum Nutt. common.

Comelyna virginica L. Long Pine.

Tradescantia virginica L. Common, but the plant unusually low, not exceeding 6 to 8 inches in height.

Zizania aquatica L. Central Nebraska, very near to 100 meridian, on Loup river.

Spartina cynosuroides Willd. On rich soil (not of
lakes and streams) very common.

Phragmites communis Trin. Common. Along the Platte
it often forms long running stems from 30 to 50
feet in height.

No II)

(6)

Hordium jubatum L. Very common. One of our
troublesome weeds.

Cultus tribuloides L. a very common grass which
is one of our worst pests.

Andropogon furcatus Nutt. "Blue Stem". Common.

" *scoparius* Michx. "Bunch Grass" "

Hordeum jubatum Gr. "Blue Stem" "

Equisetum arvense L. common.

" *hyemale* L. "

Chilanthum lanuginosum Nutt. Northern Nebr.

Pellaea atropurpurea Link. Southern "

Cystopteris fragilis Berk. One most common fern.

Oxalis sericifolia L. Long Pine.

Botrychium virginicum L. Lincoln.

No III.

Samolus purpurea — N.E. Iowa.

Hamaeleis virginica L. North East Iowa.

Adoxa moschatellina " " "

Menyanthes trifoliata L. Central Iowa.

Ulmus racemosa Thunb. N.E. Iowa

Symphoricarpos fortis Salisb. " "

Acer coloratum L. Central Iowa. certainly in-
-digenous.

A few Iowa plants. To be ad-
-ded to the new edition of Gray's
Manual.

Rossmont, N. J.
July 9th, 1888.

Dr Watson:

My Dear Sir:

I write to thank
you for your kindness in
sending me a copy of
your "Contribution to
American Botany No.
XV." I would have
acknowledged its receipt
sooner had not sickness
prevented and for the
same reason I have
not examined it.

(2)

D^{rs} Porlier and Britton
and I propose to make
a collection for M.
Crisp. In the present
stage of his investigations &
it is important that he should
have, in flower and fruit, (if
possible) good specimens of
R. turtida. Could you assist
us in this particular? By
so doing I know you would
receive M. Crisp's warmest
thanks. In the absence of
D^r Britton collections may
be sent to me. At the close
of the season such material
as we have will be sent
to Columbia College and
from there to Brussels.
It would seem quite
possible that Crisp's final

(31)

Arrangement would be as follows:

R. lucida, Marshall.

Var. lucida,

Var. rubida,

These three forms, quite distinct in certain localities, run into each other in others. In N. York, N. Jersey and Penna. forms may be found approaching more or less closely R. rubida. Outer sepals more or less lobed seems to be the only character (constant) to distinguish it from the type. — There are some other points connected with this subject about which I would like to write you for your critical judgment on them if I felt able but I am just recovering from an attack of

(4)

Malarial fever and my
brain is too much cinchonized
for the prolonged consideration
of a subject so difficult as
that of our roses.

I am, my dear Dr. Watson
Very truly Yours,
G. W. Bees

OFFICE OF G. N. BEST, M. D.

Rosemont, N. J., Feb 13 1888

My dear Dr Watson:

I write to thank you for having forwarded M. Cripin's letter and to say that I regret my inability to fill your application for a pair of Rose specimens at present, but shall take pleasure in doing so at the close of the coming botanical season. Numerous applications have exhausted my supply of good material.

The fruit of Rosa carolina, L. withers and wrinkles during winter and serves therefore as a valuable character by which to distinguish it from doubtful forms of R. lucida,

the fruit of which remains plump
as does that also of R. humilis and
var. villosa.

In the Eastern States you
have the typical lucida with
stout curved spines, thick
shining leaves, broad stipules.
In the West they have the typical
humilis with thinner leaves,
straight slender spines and narrow
stipules. In parts of New York,
New Jersey and Penna. mixed
forms are encountered, in one
locality approaching the one
type and in another the other.
It is a common remark among
botanists that these "run into
each other."

It would seem an important
factor in the solution of the Rose
problem to correctly interpret

Rosemont, N. J., 1888

them. Two hypotheses may be urged. 1^o They are hybrids. 2^o They are in reality but one species and the mixed forms are the result of differences in location, soil, etc. Much might be said in favor of each and much might be said against each, my preferences however are for the latter.

If they are hybrid then typical forms of both lucida and humilis ought to be found somewhere growing together. This, as you say, is seldom if ever the case. Again, if they are hybrid, they are as vigorous and as prolific as the parents, which is ~~rather~~ not the rule, if Darwin be good authority.

I think I can safely say, after having carefully observed the changes in these plants, seemingly produced by differences in environment, that the relation between them is much too close to consider them species and that the better way is to regard them rather as varieties. I believe this to be more in accord with sound botanical nomenclature.

I shall be pleased to hear from you at any time.

Very truly Yours,

G. W. Beek

P.S. In the Herb. of Col. College there are some Roses of my collecting and if you are in New York and choose to call I know Dr Britton would take pleasure in showing them to you.

Rossmont, N.J., April 3, 1889.

My dear Dr Watson:-

I write to ask you to exchange with me, or if this is not acceptable, to loan me, 10 or 12 specimens of your Rosa lucida, for which I will send you an equal number, or more, of my var. lucida as found with us.

Is Rosa lucida as you have it a durable bush enduring from year to year like R. carolina or does it die after two or three years to be replaced by stems given off from the roots of the primary bush like Rosa humilis?

Mr. Crispen is more and more inclined to regard his "true" R. lucida as distinct from R. humilis and rank it as a good species. My impression is, or rather has been, that it belongs to the humilis group. It should be remembered however that his "true" R. lucida is much more restricted than the forms generally recognised as such by us, with sepals ord. entire, leaves of the flowering branches of 9 leaflets, bush durable and of long life, etc. The very important point to be settled is the character last referred to — the life history of the bush both above and in ground. Whatever information you can give me bearing on these particulars will be most thankfully received and duly reciprocated should opportunity offer.

Very Truly Yours, G. N. Burt

Rosemont N.T. May 5th, 1890.

My dear Dr Watson:

I am greatly in need of specimens of *R. Spithameae*. If you will send those you have in herb, you will confer a favor. I will cheerfully pay express charge both ways. My express office is Center Bridge N.T. I shall return them in a very short time. It is very desirable that I have them as soon as possible.

The specimens I have examined of this rose come from the middle and southern parts of the state. I have seen none from Trinity River.

The quantity of material placed at my disposal has been, with the exception of *R. Californica* and *R. Spithameae*, quite ample; the quality is far from being satisfactory. As you know a large proportion of specimens found in herbaria are worse than worthless.

When an author gives up his own errations I think it is time for other people to follow. Crispin's *R. Fendleri* descends to the rank of a synonym, *R. pisocarpa* being recognised species. This extends far north, probably as far as 65° (Fort Yukon) and is generally a widely distributed as well as very variable species.

I am fully aware, my dear Dr Watson, of the difficulties

the treatment of the North
American Cuneiform
present and thank you for
your kind suggestions. I
think however that it would
be better to keep bringing this
subject to the attention of
botanists in order to stimulate
collectors to gather more and
better material. It is quite
probable that neither you
nor I will see them placed
on satisfactory basis.

I shall be pleased to have
any suggestions you have to make.

Very truly, Yours,

G. W. Bush



Berckmans, Prosper J. 1882. "Berckmans, Prosper J. Nov. 9, 1882." *Asa Gray correspondence* 1-55.

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