

Moulton. Ala. April 18. 1854

My Dear Sir.

Yours of the 23rd March ult has been several days rec^d. I have delayed my answer only until I could send along with it the ferns promised heretofore - To day I mailed you a few boxes containing the ferns, that is Trichomanes radicans, Asplenium pinnatifidum, Nutt. A. montanum, Willd. Lycopodium undatum Linn. & a Goodenia pubescens Michx. (I suppose) as I have not seen it in bloom.

They were all fresh & green when inclosed, and were gathered yesterday.

The Trichomanes withers almost immediately if exposed to the sun & winds. I have sent you rooting specimens - they grow down on the face of the sand rock to the soil at its foot and there the stem running on the wet ground put out roots, which seem to penetrate the soil several inches. But this it does only in wet situations. The soil on which it grew rests on a rock, kept almost constantly damp, & is composed of the sand of the rock, & the remains of the rotten leaves of the fern itself. It is never exposed to the sun, & always in damp places. I have chipped off pieces of the rock on which it grows & kept it for a month and more in a glass jar well closed & water enough at the bottom of it - to keep the atmosphere quite saturated. The other ferns grow in the clefts of sand rock in dry &

sheltered places. The Lycopodium grows on damp rocks (sandstone) with the lower portion & roots much covered up in old leaves.

I had commenced preparing the buckeye flowers for you before your letter came; it will be some two weeks or more before they will be sufficiently dry to forward to you, but as soon as they are I will send them.

The criticism on Dr Hooker's Flora of N. Zealand, with several other favors from you of that kind, has been recd, for which I very cordially thank you — and as ever, with all your botanical essays, it is well & wisely done.

In your Botany of the N. States p. 405 No 5: you say that Euphorbia Peplus is introduced. I am inclined to think that the Euphorbia sent you in my last which you determine E. Peplus, is a native. Yet it corresponds with the description. I will endeavor to get you some perfect specimens of the whole plant & send them.

The Buckeyes shall be sent as soon as ready, when I will write again.

As ever very truly & respectfully yours
Thos M Peter

Prof Asa Gray M.D.
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