

Alexandria, Huntingdon Co., Penn^a.

July 13th 1847.

Dr Asa Gray,
Dear Sir,

Will you excuse me, a stranger, for intruding on your time & notice? Your known devotion to the Science of Botany has induced me to ask your opinion concerning what I take to be a new Species of *Solidago*. I found it, last summer, growing in various places near Monticello, Jasper County, Georgia, in company with *S. reticulata*, *S. Bertii*, *S. brachyphylla*, & *S. speciosa*. It seems to be nearly allied to *S. speciosa*, but differs from it chiefly in the following particulars - Stem very stout, scabrous pubescent above with uncinata hairs, rather smooth below; leaves lanceolate, entire, & mostly acuminate above, ovate-lanceolate or lance-ovate, acute, & sparingly dentate-serrate below, scabrous pubescent on both sides; panicle strict, heads 20-26 flowered, rays 6-10. I enclose a few leaves & heads of flowers for your inspection. - I also found, flowering above a certain line on ~~the~~ Rock Mountain, De Kalb Co., a plant belonging to the *Asteraceae*. I think it a *Rudbeckia*. Stem 2 ft high, rather slender & branching; branches corymbose; leaves lance-linear, strigose-ciliate at base, rarely opposite; the whole plant in the fresh state, but especially the fibrous root, possessed of a strong

balsamic odor. There is no description in the N. am. Flora that applies, nor did I discover it in any other locality. I have also a *Bernonia* from Jasper County, which may be new, & an *Urtica* from Cleaveland County in this State, that has never been described. All these have passed under the eye of Dr. Darlington of West Chester, & the Herbarium of the Lyceum has at the same time been consulted. If you wish them and any others from the South, which I may have, & direct me where in Philadelphia to send a package, so that you can get it, I will do so with pleasure.

My collections, made in Middle & Upper Georgia, during the Summer of 1846, & the Spring of 1847, embrace about 220 species. I searched vainly in the neighborhood of Macon for your *Darbeia*, & saw nothing like it in all my travels. I had the satisfaction of spending several weeks in the region immediately South of where your last tour ended, & found at Tallulah Falls, *Rhododendron punctatum*, *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Robinia hispida*, *Zanthoxyla apiifolia*, *Liatris graminifolia*, *Galax rotundifolia*, *Saxifraga leucanthemifolia*, *Boykinia aconitifolia*, *Parnassia asarifolia*, *Hedyotis perpyllifolia*, *Nolina Georgiana*, *Trautvetteria palmata*, *Heuchera villosa*, *Cynthia Dandelion*, & an *Aster*, which puzzles me extremely. The scenery around the Falls is exceedingly wild & magnificent, & I never saw finer botanical ground. Northern & Southern trees & herbs flourish side by side in friendly society. If you continue your exploration of the Allegheny Range, you will be highly delighted with this spot. The Chasm through which the Terrors



Porter, Thomas C. 1847. "Porter, Thomas C. July 13, 1847." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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