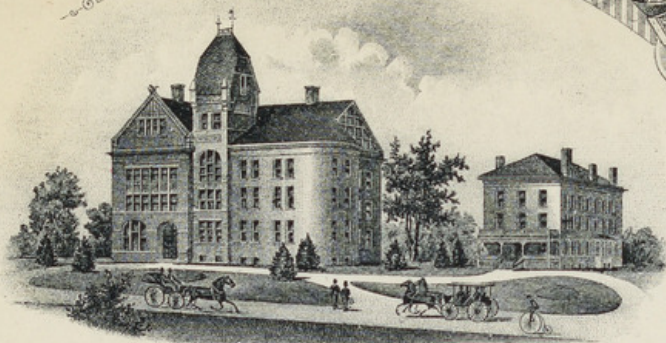


ALMA COLLEGE,

UNDER THE CARE OF
THE
SYNOD OF MICHIGAN



Calvert Lith. Co. Detroit Mich.

GEO. F. HUNTING, D., D., President and Pastor.
KENDALL BROOKS, D. D., Mathematics.
J. W. EWING, A. M., Physics, Prin. Prep. Dept.
JOHN T. EWING, A. M., Ancient Languages.
CHARLES A. DAVIS, A. M., Secy, Natural Science.
MARY C. GELSTON, A. M. Lady Prin., Latin.
REV. H. E. BUTLER, A. M., Mental and Moral Science.
KATHERINE M. INGLIS, French and German.
CARRIE L. RANSOM, Vocal and Inst. Music.
KATE L. BOOTH, Drawing and Painting.
ELNORA CUDDEBACK, Prin. Training School.
J. PIERSON, D. D., Librarian.
JAMES LOGIE, Steward.

Alma, Mich. Aug. 10, 1891.

Dr. Serrano Watson,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

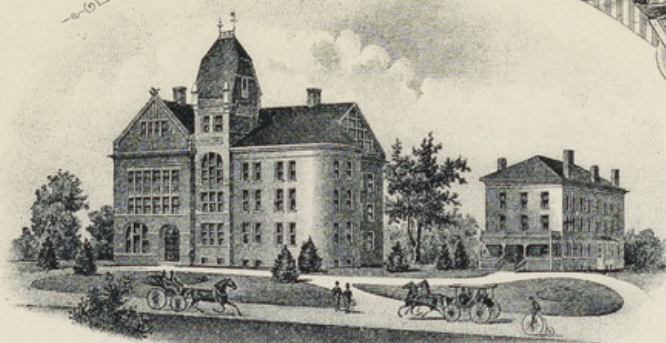
Early in May, you will remember, I sent you some specimens of the flowers of a species of *Pumila*, which was new to me and you suggested that I send specimens of the fruit, as it was not possible to fully identify the plant by the flowers alone. Herewith according, I send you specimens of the fruit, which are not ripe, but still have the stone fully formed. I send the unripe fruit because I may be away at the time when it is fully ripe. From fallen fruit under the trees I judge that the color of the ripe fruit is purple. Is the plant a small flowered form of *P. americana*? I have found that species very common about here but the flowers are

Davis

more than twice as large as those on
the trees from which this fruit comes
and bloom more than a week earlier.
The fruit of *P. Americana* is also lar-
ger than this I send you, and is yellow
or reddish. I would like to ask you about
another plant that is common here
in swamps - apparently *Solanum dul-*
camara, L. I say apparently because
I am familiar with the type form
as it occurs in the east, and there
it has very dark ^{purple} flowers with orange
stamens. Wheeler and Smith's "Catalogue
of the Plants of Michigan", says it is found
by "roadsides" and is "infrequent in the
Center and South parts of the State. As I find
here it occurs in many places in ~~low~~
swamps, and in one instance in the
marsh about the edge of a small lake
a long distance from any road - it
had all the appearance of being indig-
enous, although birds might have
carried the seeds to the place. The flowers
of the plant I find here
are uniformly white or barely tinged with
blue - so faint that one can hardly decide
whether there is a tinge or not in most
cases. The plant is tall but does not seem

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to twine or climb, and is quite pubescent. 189
I have not had a chance to compare
this plant with a specimen of the typical
form so cannot tell if there are any
marked variations other than those I
mention. If you would like, I will send
you a set of specimens, for examina-
tion and comparison. The light flowers
seem to be invariable as I have found
them now for two years in succession.
I forgot to say that I find the *Prunus*
scattered about over a considerable
tract of country and that the largest trees
are at least thirty feet (estimated) in
height. Trusting that I have not trespassed
too much on your time,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Chas. A. Davis.



Davis, Charles A. 1891. "Davis, Charles A. Aug. 10, 1891 [to S. Watson]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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