

I have never seen any thing in the vegetable kingdom more beautiful, or wonderful.

Wishing you well, and hoping to hear from you often.

I remain Your friend

R. M. Austin

Butterfly Val. Cal.
April 24, 1876.

Mrs. E. E. Davenport,

Dear Sir,

Your kind

letter has remained unnoticed all too long but I have been so busy since I received it, that each day has been too short for its allotted work.

Our early flowers are blooming, & it is going to be the best season for wild flowers I have ever seen in the country, and I hope to be able to prepare some nice specimens for many valued friends. I received a nice order from Mr. Pringle for plants to grow, & I thank you very much for making me known to him & my dear friend Mrs. Ames too. If I

can only sell plants & seeds enough to buy books, pay postage, &c. I shall be able to go on with the work which I have begun and which I so much desire to accomplish something in. I shall be very busy all summer, as I have many duties aside from botanizing, so if I should appear a slow correspondent, you must look with leniency upon me.

I receive the "Medford Chronicle," & enjoy the articles on ferns very much, & shall preserve them for reference. Will occasionally send you a "Rural Press," I sent one to Mr. Pringle & one to you, containing articles from Mr. S. G. Lemmon. He is now in southern California botanizing but not well. He lost his health, or nearly so, in Andersonville Prison, during our civil war. It seems too hard that one of his energy should be prevented from work that is so enabling by a feeble body

I thought best not to send you a box of plants before Fall, as I could only find a few of the kinds that I wished you to have. I shall send you the roots of eight different kinds of Violets, I think all of our Californian violets, except one, & that one is Mr. Lemmon's new one. From his description, I have never seen it.

I hear, to day, of a place seven miles from here, where "White Pond Lily" (*Nymphaea odorata*) grow. I have never seen any growing in Cal.

I shall look well after ferns this season, and hope to send you some rare ones, as nice as those which you sent me.

I shall endeavor to study the physiology of our wonderful "Snow plant," (*Sarcodes sanguinalis*) to some extent this season. How I wish it were possible to cultivate ^{it} in your eastern gardens.



Austin, Rebecca Merritt Smith. 1876. "Austin, Rebecca M. Apr. 24, 1876 [to G. E. Davenport]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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