

I send seeds of *Viola chrysantha*, & one  
other the name of which I do not know

Hoping to hear from you soon &  
that the plants reach you safely.

I remain yours truly.

R. M. Austin

Mr. George E. Davenport  
Brooklyn, Mass.

Aug. 15. I have not yet finished  
making up your *Albida* & *formosa* & have  
an opportunity of returning to Brooklyn  
the collected ferns. As I have concluded to  
send the latter, & delay the packing  
till I have the ferns dry R. M. A.

American Valley Cal.

Aug. 7, 1876.

Mr. Davenport dear friend.

I have concluded  
to send you the *Botrychium* specimen  
now, & a few others, as I shall have no oppor-  
tunity to aid you in observations on the  
plant. It is the most perfect specimen  
I could find, and as it has the root  
an. old and a new leaf, & the fruit set  
perhaps it <sup>may</sup> answer.

I have dried you a whole plant of  
"*Pteris aquilina*?" which I think is full  
six feet high, & some grew farther in the  
bushes, that I could not get at, even taller  
than this one. The *Pellaea* were gathered  
full young. I have only a few *Chelidonium*  
thes, I shall return to the Butterfly some  
time this month to gather ferns. I am  
satisfied that there are three species



of *Splenium*, and perhaps four, growing there.

I have not time to give you the names of but few of the plants that I send you I duplicate most of those I send.

I have been having chills, which has spoiled all my botanical plans & excursions, since I wrote you last.

I visited Mrs. Ames after the 4th, & we had a joyful time over her large collection. She leaves the mountains about the middle of Oct. to make her permanent home in San Jose, one of the loveliest spots in Cal. She will continue to botanize, and we have made arrangements to correspond and exchange, so this will give me the Flora of southern Cal, which I very much desire.

Our friend Mr. Pringle sent me a copy of our California Botany, which I received about two weeks since. It is a nice work, & I hope you have it. I am so thankful to you & Mrs. Ames

and our Kind Father in heaven for giving me such a friend and helper as he has been to me.

I sent Dr. Gray one new species this summer. It is a beautiful white orchid, & he has named it *Cepelanthra aphylla*, as it is leafless. It is a singular plant. Leafless, & every part of it white. I may have sent you & Mr. Pringle specimens of it. In form, it resembles *Carallorhiza multiflora*, or, *C. striata*. I have not a single specimen left, as I sent the last to Dr. Gray. The late frost injured the plant this year, & I only got a few poor specimens.

I shall have a fair field to botanize in this Valley next year. I have, late as it is, collected three species not found by me before. Two of them are "*Eriogonum*". One of them named by Watson only last winter. It is lovely, & I send you some of the seed, hoping you may succeed in making it grow in your garden. The other is a Lemon color, seed not yet mature.



Austin, Rebecca Merritt Smith. 1876. "Austin, Rebecca M. Aug. 7, 1876 [to G. E. Davenport]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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