

The
Botanical Gazette.

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July 25. 1890.

My dear Dr. Watson:--

I have your letter of the 19th, and have delayed answering it for a few days in order that I might consider the proposition you make.

I must at the outset express my gratification at the enlargement of the resources of the Herbarium, and thank you for the very flattering opinion that you express as to my ability for the work proposed. I hope that the future will justify it.

You know of course that the scheme of work that you suggest is most attractive to me. It has long been my ideal to be able to devote my time to research, but I had not expected soon to ~~have~~ have an opportunity to do it. I do not dislike teaching but it is so time-consuming that I get comparatively little leisure for the original work that I want most to do. I give full weight therefore to this phase of the proposition. It is chiefly the question of salary that is difficult to settle, and I find that I need additional data.

I should like first to know about the permanency of the place. You say in your letter " . . . a sufficient income is secured for a number of years . . . " May I know what this arrangement is so far as it might affect the continuance of the income ?

As to the salary necessary I can only say what I want it to do---

not how many dollars it must amount to. I get here now a salary of \$2200 and am able by teaching 4 weeks in the Summer School to add \$200 to that. This enables me to live here in comfort and that is all I want to do in Cambridge. We have no luxurious habits and are content with "plain living" and the hope of attaining the "high thinking" which the proverb joins with it. We should need a house of 7--9 rooms (depending on size) with modern conveniences. This item of house rent is the largest single expenditure of the year, and if you can give me some information on this point I should be able with what I know already of Cambridge prices to form an estimate of the salary necessary to live.

Another thing: Would it be necessary in case my transfer can be arranged for me to come to Cambridge at once? I suppose I could be released from my engagement here, but I should prefer to retain direction of the work for the coming college year. I could probably arrange to spend the winter---say from Dec. 15 to April 15---at Cambridge and to devote a considerable portion of my time in the fall and spring terms to the rewriting of the text-book. The winter's work would enable me to make a good start at least toward the preparation of the body of the Sullivant herbarium for mounting. In case any such plan could be considered I would of course ask only part pay from the Herbarium and part from the University of Wisconsin, and details of the arrangement could be readily agreed upon.

Will you be present at the Indianapolis meeting of the A.A.A.S.?

Very truly, yours,

C. R. Barnes



Barnes, Charles Reid. 1890. "Barnes, Charles R. July 25, 1890 [to S. Watson]."
Asa Gray correspondence

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