

Spalachicota, April 4. 1887.

Dear Doctor Gray,

By an article recently received I see you are still at work, and will doubtless continue in harness as long as strength remains to wear it.

In the article I was mainly interested in the Malvaceae, and I don't know that I disapprove of any of your suggestions — much, but I don't like Michaux's name changed into *Hibiscus lasiocarpus*. Are you quite sure about Schrader & Windland. The flowers are pink — never sulphur, and then where does the one called *incomus* in S. H. (where the flowers are sulphur) go? perhaps you write it with *H. Moscheutos*.

What I considered *H. Carolin* is just *H. militaris* as you suggest, except that the corolla is bell-shaped — little longer than the calyx.

*Malvastrum spicatum* paid us a visit of a year or two, then disappeared.

I hate varieties, but will swallow *Sida carpin* to be in fashion. If that tall large-fl<sup>d</sup> form is *S. acuta*, Burm, why take, in to an Asiatic species which apparently has nothing to do with it? Listen "fol. lin-lance" — No. "Carpel. 5-ovoid" — Not at all, "fl. pallide lutei" — not a bit of it — the deepest & brightest yellow of any I know of. I suppose I have read the description in the Prodr. a hundred times, but never dreamed that I had the plant in my garden. I wonder if any body else would.



As nearly all our works are elaborated in the closet, I sometimes think <sup>that</sup> ignorance of the habits of plants not unfrequently interferes with a just discrimination of species.

Well, after taking leave of you at that flying visit, I started for home, but was laid up in Rome for two weeks, & finally & thankfully got back here to my big arm-chair where I have remained, half dead, ever since, & now am impatiently waiting for weather warm enough to thaw out. We are having frost nearly every morning, when we ought to have matured Spring breezes.

Did you ever find out the possibility of getting that part of the Prod. that contains Boissier's *Euphorbiae*, <sup>& the last vol.</sup> & Grisebachi's *H. W. Indis* of which you were doubtful?

Chilled through, I endured a sitting at the Photographin in Boston with the result enclosed.

Yours most cordially,  
A. N. Chapman.



Chapman, A. W. 1887. "Chapman, Alvan W. Apr. 4, 1887." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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