

A. N. Curtis.

Fallegrand Place, near
Jacksonville, Fla. Sept. 2 1885

Prof. A. Gray &
Seseno Watson, Esq.

Dear Sirs - If I send
you specimens of cultivated plants
during the coming year, will you
be willing to identify them?

As I have written you, I am
planning a more thorough
exploration of this State than I
have heretofore made, with the
intention, not only of preparing an
8th fascicle, but of informing myself
more fully as to plants in cultivation
& the popular names & uses of native sps.

Do you know the chemical composition of the fibers?
I should wholly guess that an it could contain but few
elements. Is not the fiber properly termed chitinous?
(I have an impression that I have seen that term
applied to it) - The substance appears like the
honey covering of insects - colorless especially -
& to whalebone, as well as to hair, and I would
like to know if there is any marked similarity
in the chemical composition. If you have any
exact knowledge of this subject - please give me
the benefit of it - & oblige yours truly

J. W. Ward

I have been writing a 4-column
article on "Sub-tropical Florida"
for the Trade Ed. of the Pine-Union
& now have in hand for the same
a 3-col. article on Fiber-plants.
Can you refer me to any very recent
publications on this subject -
relative to production & consumption
manufacture, prices, etc?

I shall include *Tillandsia usneoides*
& wish to write a botanical account
of the same for another periodical.

My opinion is that this plant is
dependent on living bark to the same
extent that lichens are, deriving
certain elements from waste bark
i.e. those outer layers which receive
very little, if any, of the tree's sap.
Detached or on dead trees or branches
I think the plant is virtually dead.



Curtiss, Allen Hiram. 1885. "Curtiss, Allen H. Sept. 2, 1885 [to S. Watson]." *Allen Hiram Curtiss letters to Asa Gray*

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