

926 Grant Ave

Rockford Ills

Feb 12/84

Mr. Sargent Watson
Cambridge Mass

Lat. 52°
250 m. N. of bond

My dear Sir:

Bright Salix

Drummondiana Pursh. he included
in a list of Rocky Mtn species of
the U. States? I do not know just
where Drummond collected, and while I
took copious notes of the specimens on
D. Torrey's herb some years ago I
neglected to make a memorandum
of the habitat - if any was given
beyond just the "Rocky Mountains".

Investigating S. Fendleriana Pursh
afresh in connection with its reported
occurrence in the Rocky Mountains I
was led to the complete and satisfactory
determination of some plants recently
collected by Mr. Siskind as the long
low Salix macrocarpa Nuttall - The
agreement with Nuttall's extended
and rather unusually accurate
description is perfect and the

determination is sustained by tracings
of the Kew specimens and a few
fragments from Durand Herb. And
now - right here - comes in another
of those peculiar, the say, the least
uses made by Prof Andersson of the
material he had in hand - With
4 specimens of Nuttalls before him
~~located~~ in Nuttalls possession own
gives way Salix macrocarpa (only I have for
* Oregon the tickets altogether too long!) - He takes
Nuttalls name - assigns it to a plant
from "Hudsons Bay" Burke (which by the
way "can not be found in place" Oliver)
- a plant that Nuttall never saw - and
then re describes Nuttalls plant as
a new species Geyeriana, Anders. I
can't understand it! To talk of
the habitat of Nuttalls plant being
doubtful is mere gabbling - based
upon the accidental omission of Hab. in
the Sylva - The specimens - which he
says he saw - are ticketed "Oregon" - I
have written to Kew about it -
tentatively - enclosing Durands specimen
which must be macrocarpa Nuttall. There
can be no going back on that - and

which if not also Geyeriana must
be distinguished by some character
not given in the description - which
is not at all likely - Our plant
in the California flora will thus
become P. macrocarpa Nutt var -
something - for it differs in the
more glaucous twigs - smaller capsules
& more silky leaves - still scarcely
enough I think to warrant separation.

We moved into our new home
last December and have been gradually
settling down to the ordinary routine
of home life - right in the teeth of
such a winter as "you read about" -

I have at last got all my botanical
treasures safe under one roof - and
rejoice in a snug little study, opening
out of the family living room -

Please drop me a line about
P. Drummondiana. Ought I to include it
every way in Cutler's flora - to direct
attention to its possible re-discovery?

Yours cordially
W. S. Webb



Bebb, M. S. 1884. "Bebb, Michael S. Feb. 12, 1884 [to S. Watson]." *Michael Schuck Bebb letters to Asa Gray*

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