

GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

June 10, 1905

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I shall send to your London address a small package of *Potentillas* which I hope you can get a chance to compare with the Linnaean type of *P. canadensis*.

The question of exact identities in this group has just come up again, and I suspect that we have been in error in identifying our sickly early-flowered little plant with *P. canadensis*. The Linnaean plant was a stem specimen from Canada, & described as having hirsute ascending stems, and hirsute petioles. The plant we have recently called *P. canadensis* is sericeous throughout. Furthermore it is unknown in Canada, being confined to the coastal district from extreme southern Maine to Maryland,

inland only to Cheshire Co., N.H. & adjacent Vermont.

The common plant of Kalm's region of Canada is represented by Macoun's no 560 and a sheet from Rich. This grows from the St. Lawrence south through the Alleghenies & west to Kansas &c. It is well described,

it seems to me, in the Linnean characterization of P. canadensis. It is the "intermediate" which has been tossing back and forth from our "canadensis" to simplex cover.

The P. simplex sheets are sent merely for comparison with the Linnean type. They are undoubtedly Michaux's P. simplex which I examined.

We were glad to have a letter from you a day or two ago with in at Geneva, and to know that you and Mrs. Robinson are having such a good

time. I should like to be there with
you, and to see the deCaudalles, Brignet,
and others.

Everything is running smoothly here,
though I am troubled to have no time
for really continuous work, the same
condition as usual in June. Most
of the time recently has gone into oral
examinations - fifteen candidates all
together. Either Johnston or Hall
appeared, for which I was thankful.
Plowman is to be recommended, though
there was a long fight before I would
indorse his thesis. It was on the
anatomy and Phylogeny of the Cyperaceae,
and he had used names in such a
loose sense that before I would accept
the thesis I was forced to have him
bring up all his material, much of
which was wrongly named. This of
course stirred his Professor, Dr. J., and
there was a period of extreme warmth.

I maintained my ground, and since then all feeling seems to have subsided, and in the oral examinations systematic Botany has taken a much stronger position than last year.

Mr. Goldsmith is to leave in about a week for Tepic and Colima & I am equipping him for extensive collecting. He expects to bring back several thousand sheets. I have made a vain attempt to secure him a pass over the Mexican Central, in order that he might give us a larger lot of his specimens than would be covered by the original order; but I found that if we secured him a pass, Priests' chance would be hazarded, so I gave it up.

The Botanical Club had an extremely pleasant afternoon at Professor Sargent's on Thursday. It was clearing after a long rain, so that everything was in splendid condition. We spent the after-

noon driving through the Arboretum and inspecting the 1500 plots of seedling Crataegus - all "true"; then drove to Brookline for supper. After supper we walked about the place until sunset.

Rhodora has caught up again. The June number was issued on the 1st, and the July number will be through the press ahead of time. The August number is made up and there is enough good material for September.

The new cases are now in and in service, though the workman is to come out sometime for finishing touches. The preliminary distribution is well started.

I shall start on July 2^d or 3^d - with Collins, Ames and Williams for the Baie des Chaleurs. Mrs. Ames and Mrs. W. are to accompany us at least part of the time. During that period we shall stick to reasonably civilized

centres. Then, the month of August
Collins and I expect to spend on the
rugged north side of Gaspé, working
on the escarpment which rises 1200
feet from the Gulf to the tableland
below the Shickshock Mts. If feasible
we shall get ten days on Table Top,
one of the most remarkable mountains.

I hope before I leave to have
finished for Rhodora a treatment of
Arnica in eastern America. The one
alpine species, "A. Chamissonis" of the
White Mts, &c., resolves itself into 5,
none of them like the original Alaskan
thing of which we have authentic
material. One is a well known
Rocky Mt. plant, two are surely new,
and the other two are yet unsettled.

I have been able to clear up a
bad snarl in the Manual Symphoricarpos,
and I also have the perplexities in

Taraxacum satisfactorily disposed of.

Matthews made us a half-day visit yesterday, to say goodbye for the summer. He is taking Eurocharis to Compton, and I trust that he will get it through all right.

The Tech. alumni voted overwhelmingly against any "merger"; their Faculty 72 to 3 against; but yesterday their Corporation voted for it by a vote of 20 to 12! Now the Supreme Court must take the matter in hand.

When you receive this you will be in the midst of the discussions at Vienna. We are all awaiting the results with great interest. I shall be glad if you will remember me kindly to any of my friends you may see there or later in your travels - We have had a short visit from Dr. Hochreutner of the Delessat

Herbarium. He will later wish
to borrow our material of Hibiscus.

With warm regards to Mrs. Robinson,

Cordially yours,

Meritt L. Fernald.

It is Saturday afternoon. If the
others were here they would wish to
send their greetings



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1905. "Fernald, Merritt Lyndon June 10, 1905 [Fernald to B.L. Robinson]." *Merritt Lyndon Fernald correspondence*

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